

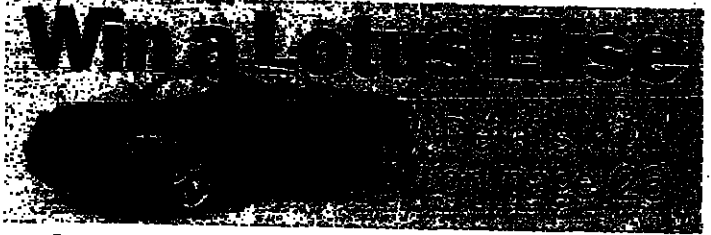


INDEPENDENT

35p

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 1995

2.80p



Boxer's death strengthens call for ban

Nothing short of abolition can save lives

LOUISE JURY and DERRICK WHYTE

Scottish boxer James Murray lost his fight for life yesterday, prompting renewed demands for the sport to be banned.

He underwent surgery in Glasgow's Southern General Hospital on Friday to remove a blood clot, but never regained consciousness.

Drew Docherty, Mr Murray's opponent in the bantamweight British title clash in Glasgow - which ended in ugly brawls among spectators - said he and his manager Tommy Gilmour were "shattered".

An independent panel, which investigated last year's death of boxer Bradley Stone and advised the British Boxing Board of Control, will now meet again, it was announced.

Peter Richards, a consultant neurosurgeon who chaired the panel, said it delivered recommendations for improving safety to the board only a few weeks ago. He said: "We will consider what happened over the weekend and decide whether any additions should be made to the report."

Its recommendations included replacing pre-title fight CTC brain scans with the more sophisticated magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans; pre-match checks that boxers are not dehydrated to meet the weight requirements; and reviewing the number and length of rounds, as well as the intervals between them.

The board's chief medical officer, Adrian Whiteson, who also sits on the panel, said he expected to publish new guidelines within a month, although it was impossible to make the sport "100 per cent safe".

Prince wades into battle for lottery cash

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The Duke of Edinburgh has stepped into the controversy over the way money is being spent from the National Lottery fund by appealing to the Prime Minister to intervene.

Prince Philip raised the issue with Alex Allen, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary. Mr Allen then wrote to Hayden Phillips, permanent secretary at the Department of National Heritage.

The fact that Mr Major authorised his private secretary to ask the heritage department to investigate shows he is concerned and may feel that Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary should act.

The Queen's private secretary, Sir Robert Fellowes, warned in an attached memorandum for Mr Major that the Neptune Hall project - part of a scheme to turn the Greenwich site into a world millennium centre - could be threatened by the NHMF's rejection.

Mr Allen's letter on Downing Street notepaper carries a "restricted" security code, but was leaked to Chris Smith, Labour's spokesman on heritage affairs, and passed to the Independent. Mr Smith said the

memorandum by Sir Robert showed a "clear and sorry saga of incompetence" in vetting projects for lottery funds. He defended its disclosure as in the public interest.

Dear Hayden
During the Prime Minister's visit to Balmoral over the weekend, the Duke of Edinburgh spoke to me about the Neptune Hall project at the National Maritime Museum. His and Terry Lewis were both considerably upset by the way the National Maritime Memorial Fund had treated the National Maritime Museum's application. Sir Robert Fellowes subsequently gave me the attached note, which the Duke of Edinburgh has seen. I should be most grateful for your comments and advice on this.

The letter that sparked the latest lottery grants row



Past perfect: A model is dwarfed by images of fashion history at the Lacroix show for spring and summer in Paris yesterday. Photograph: Peter Macdarmid

Portillo sticks to his guns over conference tirade

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, yesterday defiantly refused to tone down his attacks on Brussels, in spite of growing unrest by left-wing Tory MPs and fresh criticism by Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission.

The Positive European group of Tory MPs led by Hugh Dykes will meet Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, tomorrow in attempt to persuade the Government to repair the damage done by Mr Portillo at last week's Tory party conference.

The Macleod Group of Tory MPs are also concerned at the right-wing agenda set out by Mr Portillo and other Cabinet colleagues to the conference, and may call for a meeting with John Major. Its leader, Peter Temple-Morris, said: "It's now a matter for the Prime Minister. He appeared to applaud Mr Portillo's speech, but he has to set the tone."

Mr Portillo made it clear yesterday that he would not be silenced by pressure from within the party. "I don't regret any of the language I have used ... I stripped away all the waffle and I said very plainly a Conservative government is not going to be drawn into a European superstate where very important decisions are taken by the council of ministers or by the commission," he said on BBC television.

Mr Santer appearing simultaneously on LWT stood by his condemnation of the speech as "grotesque". He denied there were plans to create a United States of Europe, but added: "Britain is at heart of Europe. It has to give us something from its own identity. I think Britain has to give an input, a strong input in the EU and I hope that in the inter-governmental conference we would overcome all the difficulties and we can reach some compromises."

Defence chiefs were also privately appalled by Mr Portillo's use of the SAS in his speech to emphasise his Euro-sceptic convictions. Despite the conference rhetoric, the Government is planning to go along with the European Court of Human Rights judgment against the SAS by paying the £38,000 costs for the families of the three IRA terrorists killed in Gibraltar.

IN BRIEF			
Ashtown's 'contract' A new "contract" between home and school under which parents would assume greater responsibility for their children's academic performance and behaviour will be outlined in a speech Paddy Ashtown will make to the Institute of Education tomorrow. Page 8	Israeli revenge Israel launched an intensive search-and-destroy operation in South Lebanon yesterday after the Shita Hizbollah militia killed six Israeli infantrymen and seriously wounded a seventh in an ambush in Israel's self-proclaimed South Lebanese security zone. Page 18	Credit card query Mona Sahlin, Sweden's deputy premier, has been groomed to become the country's first woman prime minister next year. But, today, prosecutors are likely to announce an official investigation into repeated misuse of her government credit cards. Page 3	Western Samoa defeated Wales beat Western Samoa 22-10 and will meet England in the first semi-final of the rugby league World Cup on Saturday. Australia meet New Zealand in the second semi-final on Sunday. Page 32
Hargreaves trek to K2 The husband of mountaineer Alison Hargreaves has taken their children on a 10-day trek in the Himalayas to show them where their mother died. Page 5	FIGHT FANS A black and white photograph showing a scene, possibly related to the boxing story.	COMMENT Evan Davis: "Enterprise Britain" may sound like a trite conference slogan but it contains the seeds of a real new policy for the Tories. Page 19 Andrew Marshall: After Willygate who would want the top Nato job? Page 21 Nicholas Schoon: When can we expect a definitive answer to the global warming riddle? Page 21 Another View: Andrea Stuart on how to stop the nightmare that is Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam spreading to the UK. Page 20 Ruth Dudley Edwards uncovers Britain's most overdue library book. Page 19 Weather: It will be wet and windy in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Most of England and Wales will be dry with wind and rain edging in from the west later. Section Two, page 26	section ONE BUSINESS 23-25 COMMENT 26-27 CROSSWORD 32 ESSAY 15 GAZETTE 22 LEADING ARTICLES 28 LETTERS 28 NEWS 2-15 SPORT 26-32

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news

Clarke's tax-cutting splits the Cabinet

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The Chancellor is facing a Cabinet split this week over his efforts to cut spending to make way for tax cuts in the November Budget.

Kenneth Clarke will chair a meeting of the EDX Cabinet committee this week in an attempt to resolve the spending row with the secretaries of state for health, education and social security, who are still to settle their budgets.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, is privately challenging the tax-cutting strategy to ensure it does not damage public services. She yesterday made it clear she wanted the Cabinet to reach a collective decision.

Speaking on BBC1's *Breakfast With Frost* programme, she said: "At the moment, what we are doing across government is arriving at collective decisions about the balance between public spending and the needs of the economy."

"This obviously includes tax cuts. You can imagine there is a vigorous debate. There always is. It is particularly vigorous this year because the whole issue is given a very high profile."

Paddy Ashdown yesterday raised the stakes in the political row over the future of Britain's schools by writing to every Tory backbencher urging them to put education before tax cuts.

The Prime Minister gave Mrs Shephard his clear backing by warning: "Don't mess with

Gill." But he warned Tory supporters at last week's Conservative Party conference that the Government would be "ruthless" with spending priorities. That was seen as a signal that some unpopular decisions will be announced in the Budget in November.

The Chancellor, who warned the party that it could lead to policy changes, has summoned his Treasury team to a meeting on Friday at his country residence, Dorneywood, to thrash out the Budget strategy. He is

seeking cuts of £300m more by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, and is demanding deeper cuts by the Secretary of State for Social Security, Peter Lilley.

Mr Lilley omitted mention of lone parents from his speech. But ministerial sources confirmed that a cut in new claimants for the lone parent's allowance will be announced in the Budget.

He promised to curb fraud as a further attempt to save money, but a further squeeze on welfare spending has been ordered by the Treasury.

There were strong rumours at the Tory conference that the Treasury axe could fall on defence, in spite of a promise by the Prime Minister to last year's conference that the big changes to defence were at an end.

Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, will be under pressure today, as a Commons debate on defence starts, to give renewed assurances that his budget is not being plundered for tax cuts.

The Cabinet minister for public service, Roger Freeman, will announce a fresh round of cuts to reduce the cost of government. But the Secretary of State for Transport, Sir George Young, has had to bear the brunt of the cuts. The roads programme is one of the principal victims and major schemes, including the Newbury by-pass, are likely to be shelved.

Tories on the left wing of the party are alarmed at the threat to services. Said one MP: "We cannot afford tax cuts."

IN BRIEF

Man in ferry shaft accident loses hand

A cross-Channel ferry passenger missing for 18 hours was stable in hospital last night following an operation to amputate his right hand after he was found at the bottom of a 50ft ventilation shaft on the ship.

An air rescue search was launched on Saturday night after Simon Ashby, 25, from Canterbury, Kent, disappeared on the Stena-Sealink ferry *Fiesta* en route from Calais to Dover. He was found at midday yesterday by engineers alerted to a jammed fan in the shaft.

Police plan to question Mr Ashby to find out how he got into the shaft, which the ferry company says is sealed.

Vitamin price war

The supermarket chain Asda is to cut the price of vitamins and supplements by up to 20 per cent in a challenge to a 25-year-old ruling which allows prices on health products to be fixed by manufacturers. Small pharmacies fear the move could drive them out of business.

Boy dies in blaze

A two-year-old boy died when fire swept a terrace house in Belvedere, south-east London. The body of Stephen Lackden was found in a bedroom. His mother and two brothers, aged six and four, suffered shock.

Beattie back in jail

The convicted killer George Beattie was in custody last night for the fourth time since his conviction in 1973 of the murder of a typist found stabbed to death in Lanarkshire. Beattie, 41, who maintains his innocence, has had his parole revoked and been "re-called to custody", the Scottish Office said.

£2m fake cash haul

Six men were being questioned by police after equipment for the production of more than £2m of counterfeit money was seized from a printing company in Stratford, east London.

Woman shot

A 21-year-old woman was recovering after being found with gunshot and stab wounds after fleeing from a flat in Holloway, north London. Police want to trace two men seen running from the scene.

Child, two, trampled

A two-year-old boy suffered head injuries when he was trampled by a horse at a farm park near Minehead, Somerset. The child, who has not been named, was airlifted to Frenchay hospital, in Bristol.

Sword attack

A 26-year-old man was being held after another man was badly hurt when he was attacked with a sword in Hatherleigh, Devon.

Party royal

The Queen will be guest of honour at former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher's 70th birthday party celebration today at Claridges, in London.

Dog's good credit

The credit card firm American Express sent a postal invite to join its "select" membership to a dog, King Alfred, an alsatian owned by publican Peter Stockton, of Winchester, Hampshire, is chewing on the idea.

Murder charge

A 35-year-old man will appear in court today charged with the murder of an 18-year-old student found stabbed in a house in Salford, Greater Manchester.

Five win lottery

Five winners will share Saturday's Lottery jackpot of £9.4m, each receiving £1,891,543. The winning numbers were 5, 4, 9, 25, 30 and 47 with the bonus 17.

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BACK ISSUES
Back issues of the Independent are available from:

Maritime museum crisis: A multi-million pound project could be scrapped without National Lottery Memorial Fund backing

Leaked memo attacks funding delay

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

A "catalogue of incompetence" in the allocation of money by the National Lottery Memorial Fund is revealed in a leaked memorandum by Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, Chris Smith, the Labour Party's National Heritage spokesman, said yesterday.

Sir Robert's five-page memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office says the refusal of the National Lottery Memorial Fund to approve the project to develop the National Maritime Museum's Neptune Hall at Greenwich in south-east London, which presently houses a steam tug, launches, and yachts, could force the museum to abandon the plans, unless action is taken quickly.

The museum had planned to complete the scheme - a key part of its multi-million-pound development of the site - by 1999 in time for the Millennium when the National Maritime Museum has "an unprecedented opportunity" to display and promote its galleries and services to 10 million visitors who are expected to visit Greenwich.

A total of £560,000 already has been spent on the project, which "is already behind schedule and any further delay cannot be contemplated as it would ensure that the museum was a building site with half its galleries closed during the Millennium celebrations". Sir Robert says, adding: "Any further delay in funding decisions will almost certainly lead to cancellation of the project."

It follows the development of the Queen's House at a cost of £6m; the south-west wing, costing £3.6m; the Old Royal Observatory at a cost of £2.2m; the east wing, at a cost of £1m; and at a cost of £4m the west-central wing as an information centre; the west wing, north end.



Millennium project: Development plans for the National Maritime Museum (to the left) could be abandoned without the necessary funding approval

Photograph: Philip Meech

as an education centre, and the west-central wing south end.

Sir Robert says the Neptune Hall scheme was "essential for the improvement of access and circulation". It had been approved by English Heritage; had listed buildings consent by Greenwich council; clearance from the Treasury's economic

secretariat given exemption from the Government's private funding initiative, normally requiring all big capital projects to seek private money; and outline approval by the Department of National Heritage.

Application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund was made in January. It was thought

that it would be approved by the National Lottery Memorial Fund without delay, but in July it was rejected. The memorial fund based its decision on four reports, but Sir Robert says that in the view of the museum's trustees, "these reports are superficial and in some cases ignorant and prejudiced".

The architects for the scheme, Building Design Partnership, were dismissed in a report on the architecture of the project as having "special expertise for large scale commercial complexes, regional shopping centres and transport buildings..." But it failed to mention that BDP were the architects for the refurbishment of the Round Tower, Windsor Castle, the Royal Albert Hall, and the Royal Opera House. Sir Robert says this "undermines the credibility of the report".

A second report on the interior was largely complimentary, but the author raised issues which were already being addressed and made no attempt to contact the museum or the designers. The third report on environmental services "exhibited ignorance of design details" and its author failed to contact the museum.

The author of a fourth report on disabled access made no contact with the museum and failed to note that the museum had appointed a disabled persons liaison officer.

Sir Robert says: "The trustees of the NMM have been given no inkling that their application was likely to be rejected and have not any stage been informed in writing of the nature of the NMMF reservations. The trustees have spent four years and over half a million pounds developing this scheme and are satisfied that it best meets the primary objective of improving access and circulation within the museum while enhancing the historic buildings."

MoD reviews plans to merge defence staff training

Controversial plans to sell the Royal Naval College at Greenwich in south-east London - one of Britain's great architectural treasures - have hit a major obstacle, it was disclosed yesterday.

Defence chiefs have been forced to review plans to form a single tri-service staff college at Camberley, Surrey, bringing

the Army, Royal Navy and RAF together under one roof because of huge costs.

Detailed studies into the cost of refurbishing the existing Army Staff College have disclosed that "tens of millions of pounds" will be needed to carry out the work.

The cost is substantially more than predicted in initial studies,

raising fears that savings might not be seen until well into the next century.

"There is a lot of teeth-sucking going on about the scale of the costs involved in the refurbishment of Camberley," said a senior defence source.

Alternative sites to Camberley are now under consideration to see whether greater savings

can be made. And there are grave doubts whether the 1997 deadline for forming the tri-service college can now be met.

"Everything is being considered - from constructing a new building from scratch to using another existing building," said another official.

"There is a body of opinion which argues that refurbishing

Camberley is simply not cost-effective."

However, the Ministry of Defence is still determined to try and put all three staff colleges together.

"The problem is you have to spend to save and at the moment the MoD is faced with costs they don't want to face," said the official.

Grant voices concern over riot estate rally

JOJO MOYES

The main speaker at Britain's biggest Black power rally to date, due to take place today, has expressed concern over plans to hold it at Broadwater Farm estate, the scene of the riots in Tottenham, north London, 10 years ago.

A thousand black men and women are expected to gather for today's show of political strength, timed to coincide with the Million Man black march in Washington, United States.

Organised as a recruitment drive by the Nation of Islam, it will be held at the site of the Tottenham riots in which Constable Keith Blakelock was killed.

Bernie Grant, the Labour MP for Tottenham, has been persuaded by the radical black organisation to speak at the rally. But yesterday he expressed doubts about the decision to hold it in the racially sensitive area.

"If it were my rally I wouldn't have gone to Broadwater Farm," he said. "Last week I was there with community leaders and we were talking about the unity of the Nation."

Speaking on yesterday's Radio 4 *Sunday* programme, Mr Grant said that the Nation of Islam addressed young unemployed black people, so "of course this is fertile ground for them to work on". However, he said it was "very important" that he attend what is billed as the biggest protest march since the Sixties to engage them in dialogue.

"If I don't go along, and give free range to the Nation of Islam in my constituency, then I'm not doing my job," he said.

The militant Islamic group has already sparked outrage in the US where the black leader Louis Farrakhan is said to have described Jews and other ethnic groups as "bloodsuckers".

Mr Farrakhan denies charges of racism and anti-semitism, but yesterday the Board of

Deputies of British Jews accused the group of trying to gain "cheap political capital".

Spokesman Mike Whine condemned the decision to hold the British march on Broadwater Farm. "It's a fairly cynical manoeuvre to have it there at the site of one of the worst places of black and white violence in Britain ever," he said.

He said the board would be monitoring the rally for signs of anti-semitism. "If the British group follows the lead of the Americans we will certainly have our concerns," he added.

The Nation of Islam is led in Britain by Wayne X, 36, of London, a self-employed graphic artist, who preaches the gospel of black self-help. Supporters, wearing bow ties and dark suits can be regularly spotted around London, selling copies of the movement's newspaper, the *Final Call*.

Million Man March, page 17
Leading article, page 20

Skye bridge is opened by Forsyth

The Isle of Skye loses its romantic island status today when the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth, opens the £30m bridge connecting it to the mainland.

Mr Forsyth is sharing the ribbon-cutting ceremony with children from the local Loch Duich primary school.

The project has been dogged by controversy - and only partly because it renders redundant the musical image of Skye as a place accessible only by bonny boats speeding over the sea "like a bird on the wing".

Conservationists voiced fears for its effect on wildlife, and islanders complained about the toll charges, which are £5.20 for a car in high season.

The 570-metre bridge was built mainly with private money, with the construction firms recouping the outlay from toll charges before handing the bridge into public ownership next century.

Secret of a long life: eat, drink and be merry

STEVE CONNOR
Science Correspondent

Be a couch potato for the evening, indulge in a bar of chocolate every now and again, fear not that extra glass of wine. Scientists have discovered that a little of what you fancy really does you good.

The health conscious, work-out world of the 1990s could in fact be doing more damage to people because of the guilt it instils in those who seek a modicum of physical pleasure through eating, drinking or just lolling about.

Research into the "pleasure pathways" of the brain has found that happy people are healthier and live longer, even if they do not always follow the advice of the diet planners and fitness freaks.

Professor David Warburton, director of the Human Psychopharmacology Group at Reading University, said de-

priving people of simple pleasures by making them feel guilty helps to create the psychological climate in which depression can flourish.

Professor Warburton said research into anti-anxiety drugs and anti-depressants has shown that a cup of coffee, a glass of wine, a cigarette, some sugar or a few pieces of chocolate make people calmer, more relaxed and generally happier.

"This is not surprising because these products have a mild pharmacological action on the pleasure pathways in the brain."

"It is known that the same pathways are common for all pleasures from food to music, because pleasure in all activities is lost by people with depression."

Depressed people, he says, are more likely to become ill from disorders ranging from infections to heart disease and cancer, "while medical evidence

shows that happier people live longer". Even physical exercise may not necessarily be a good thing if people do not find it pleasurable, he said. "If you don't enjoy your jogging, it's not going to be good for you."

Professor Warburton said that the largest survey of office workers in the world - covering 16 countries and more than 5,000 employees - showed that a sizeable minority are under such stress they do not want to do their job.

Making the workplace more enjoyable by encouraging coffee breaks and chatting rather than frowning on such "time-wasting" activities will not only make employees happier, but it will also increase productivity, Professor Warburton said.

"People should not be made to feel guilty and anxious, if their pleasures are enjoyed in moderation and are not harming others. Such negative emotions are bad for health."

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Fatal contest: Grief at Murray's death after title fight to be followed by further soul-searching over future of the sport

Boxing in the dock after tragedy in ring

DERRICK WHYTE

Jim Murray always wanted to be a boxing champion, but on Friday night he collapsed in round 12 of a British title fight and yesterday morning at 8.50 he was declared dead.

During his ferocious encounter with Drew Docherty, Murray's stamina and determination appeared to be sufficient for him to secure the British bantamweight title in Glasgow. However, he faded during the last three rounds and collapsed with just 34 seconds left.

Now boxing will have to answer some serious accusations; not just about Murray's death but also about the mindless violence that took place inside the banqueting suite at the Hospitality Inn just seconds after Murray was counted out.

It is impossible to point the finger of blame at anybody for what happened on Friday night outside the ring or for a young man's death yesterday morning at the drab hospital in the Govan district of Glasgow. However, the public will want answers and the British Medical Association, and other critics of the brutal sport, will seek once again to ban it. Boxing must prepare itself for a confrontation during the weeks ahead.

Murray's manager, Alex Morrison, left the hospital in tears yesterday, but in reality he had started to mourn 24 hours earlier. "The doctors were brutal and held nothing back from the family," he said early on Saturday morning. "It was obvious there was no hope, but Jim's parents are determined people and they kept on praying." Yesterday his grief was complete. "I feel guilty but Jimmy wanted to fight," he said. His former trainers confirmed Murray's dedication to his chosen profession.

On Friday as the bloody and exciting rounds passed there was

nothing that could have prevented the fight's disastrous outcome. For Murray to have survived the fight would have to have ended in round six because it is probable that by then a vein inside his skull had already started to leak the blood which later formed a clot which in turn caused pressure on the skull which led to his collapse.

Earlier this year, American boxer Gerald McClellan collapsed in his world title fight against Nigel Benn. The Board's safety measures were in place and McClellan was re-



Gerald McClellan: Slumped in corner after Benn fight

suscitated in the ring and taken to hospital where a massive clot was removed from the surface of his brain. He is still alive but is in need of constant care.

On Friday, when Murray went down his body was twitching but it was still possible that he was suffering merely from dehydration. The severity of his injury only became apparent when he arrived at the hospital and was transferred from casualty to the neurological unit where he underwent the two-hour operation.

"By late yesterday [Saturday] all signs of neurological activity were extinct. We performed a set of criteria then to establish whether that was the case. I again carried out a set

of brain death criteria this morning [Sunday] and pronounced Mr Murray dead at 8.50," said consultant neurosurgeon Garth Cruickshank, the man who performed the operation.

Late last night Docherty was said to be inconsolable and is now considering his future. Before the fight the pair had shown no animosity towards each other. It was a straightforward British title fight between two boxers, neither of whom had made that much money from the sport, to determine who was the best bantamweight in Britain.

In the Newmans area on the outskirts of Glasgow many were still shocked by the death of Murray. It is a run-down, tough area and according to Murray's first boxing coach, Ally Gilmore, the boxer used the sport to "get himself off the streets".

As the rounds passed on Friday night and Murray looked set for victory it looked like he had achieved his goal. With it there was the possibility of a European or even a world title fight next year to look forward to. "Jim was very confident and he was really looking forward to winning the title, defending it a few times and then looking for some big money fights," said Morrison.

Now the British Boxing Board of Control will once again consult with the neurosurgeons on their Neurological Advisory Panel to see if anything can be learned from Murray's death.

Nicky Fifer, the chairman of the Professional Boxers Association, called for renewed and improved neurological examinations before fights. "Boxers have to have the expensive but crucial MRI scan," he said.

"We need regular medical monitoring and MRIs have to be introduced for all boxers," the London promoter Frank Warren said.



The parents of Jim Murray, Kenny and Margaret, leaving Glasgow General Hospital yesterday after the boxer was pronounced dead. Photograph: Garton Cotton

Warren adds voice of doubt to ban debate

LOUISE JURY

The shocked voice of leading boxing promoter Frank Warren was a rare new addition in the well-rehearsed chorus of condemnation for the sport yesterday.

As the British Medical Association and British Safety Council joined forces to repeat demands for boxing to be banned, Mr Warren conceded the tragedy made boxing hard to defend. "It is very difficult to justify it when you see terrible injuries like those and the damage it does to the families," he said.

For those who have protested for years, another death prompted anguished exasperation that the sport is still legal, but hope the tragedy might finally produce action.

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, the British Medical Association's head of policy, said it was not possible to make the sport safer as long as the head was the fighter's target. The blows damage the soft tissue of the brain and the twisting movement produced microscopic tears which bleed and, long-term, cause symptoms like those in Parkinson's Disease.

"It's a different danger from other sports. In other sports, you risk yourself rather than other people," Dr Nathanson said.

"In boxing, there might not always be a death, but there is always damage. Being hit by Frank Bruno is like being hit by a sledge hammer.

"People need to be aware that when they watch this they are seeing the boxers being permanently damaged."

Ideally, fights should not be broadcast at all, she said, which would cut their money-making potential and, consequently, the spur to young boxers. "With something that has such appalling consequences, is it reasonable to televise it and call it a sport?"

James Tye, director general of the British Safety Council, said measures to improve safety should be implemented immediately. "The British Boxing Board of Control and individual promoters always say these things are going to cost too much money, but out of the huge sums of money made by promoters it would be a piddling amount."

Sam Galbraith, consultant neurosurgeon and Labour MP for Strathkelvin and Bearsden, called for an urgent programme of research into brain damage caused by professional boxing. He is to raise the matter in the House of Commons.

"If we cannot get it banned, the least we are entitled to demand is research which will lead to inescapable conclusions which nobody will be able to hide from," he said.

But former boxing champion Barry McGuigan, the president of the Professional Boxers' Association, said that, statistically, boxing produced fewer serious injuries than other sports. "It's worrying that despite the fact we have taken a number of precautionary measures this sort of thing still happens. But I think the bottom line is we can never make boxing totally safe."

Tom Pendry, Labour's sports spokesman and a British Board of Boxing Control steward, said if the sport was banned, it would continue underground without controls. And Tory MP Harry Greenway, vice-chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Friends of Boxing, said it would be wrong to ban the sport in the "heat of the moment".

A 1993 report for the British Medical Association found that, worldwide, more than 360 boxers had been killed since 1945. Doctors say persistent neurological damage - the "punch drunk" syndrome - affects a fifth of older boxers.

Sky television, which had its highest viewing figure ever for Frank Bruno's title fight last month, refused to respond to the BMA's challenge to broadcast. A BBC spokeswoman said they now showed relatively little boxing, but people did still want to watch it.



Girls with purpose: Left, a Brownie and a Guide at Westminster Abbey in 1982 meeting Lady Baden-Powell, who with her brother founded the movement in 1910. Right, Brownies show off their new uniforms adopted in 1990

JOHN MCKIE and JOJO MOVES

The Girl Guide movement, bastion of clean-living young womanhood, is facing a crisis because women cannot spare the time to be Brown Owls or Guide leaders.

The Guide Association said yesterday that "lots" of girls were on waiting lists to join their local groups, but were being turned away because there was no one to lead them.

"One of the problems is social change," said the association's spokeswoman Jackie Bennett Shaw. "Many young women have to juggle family and their career - that leaves little time for voluntary activities. Social pressures on women are making it increasingly difficult to recruit leaders and that means we can't expand the work programme."

"We find that the demand from girls far exceeds the number of leaders we have."

Guides face crisis of vanishing Brown Owls

But she said they did not like advertising for new leaders for fear of attracting the wrong type of person. "Advertising, we find from practical experience, is not particularly beneficial. The most effective way of recruiting is by personal referral and contacts. It is a youth organisation, it is a very responsible position, so you have to be very careful who you take."

One group facing a crisis is the 4th Littleport Brownies in Cambridgeshire, which has 20 girls in search of a new leader - just a few weeks after it began.

Elaine Ellis, 42, who runs a

neighbouring group, said: "What tends to happen at the moment is we rely on the goodwill of one or two individuals who struggle from year to year. You kind of rock from one crisis to another," she added.

National membership has fallen by 64,000 in the last 12 years. In 1983 there were about 814,000 Guides and Brownies - adults and girls. Now there are 750,000.

Church leaders said yesterday that the movement faced increasing competition from other pastimes. The Rev Simon Baker has seen a low turnout of

Guides for the last decade at his parish of Stinfield, in Berkshire.

"There are many pressures in modern life for young people and joining an organisation that is uniformed and to which you have to go every week is very different from a lot of freedoms young people enjoy these days. We live in an age where young people find commitment difficult," he said.

And in the age of shopping malls and computer games, the single-sex uniformed organisation is often seen as quaint and old-fashioned. However, it insists it is moving with the times.

Pauline Ashton, executive director of the Girl Guides' Scottish organisation, said yesterday: "In Scotland, Guides are the largest youth organisation and we are still quite a force to be reckoned with. The girls and young women get a lot of personal development and the opportunity to do lots of interesting things - and that goes for the adult leaders, too."

Five Britons killed in lorry crash

Five Britons have died in a head-on crash with an articulated lorry in Swaziland, southern Africa.

The five - Dr Jackie Ford, Dr Catherine Hulme, Lucy Tringham, Deborah Townsend and David Whittaker all worked at a hospital in the South African province of Natal near the border with Swaziland, said a Foreign Office spokesman. He added: "They were on some sort of medical attachment to help out the hospital."

Dr Ford is from Hemel Hempstead; Ms Tringham and Ms Townsend are students at Bristol University; Mr Whittaker is a student at University

College Hospital, London; and Dr Hulme had just qualified from Birmingham University.

The group was heading for a weekend break in Swaziland when the accident happened on Friday evening.

According to reports in the *Mercury*, a Durban-based newspaper, Mr Whittaker had arrived in South Africa on the day of the crash, and the other two students had been in the country for only two weeks.

Dr Ford had been working at the 230-bed Bethesda rural community hospital in the small town of Ubombo for some time. Dr Hulme joined her there six weeks ago.

The crash happened near the town of Lavumisa, Swaziland, on Friday evening, when a lorry went out of control, the newspaper said. Because the crash was in such a remote location, police did not reach the scene until the early hours of Saturday.

Hospital superintendent Dr Jonathan Pons said staff were "in shock" over the tragedy. He added that hospitals such as his depended on "young and selfless" doctors and medical staff from overseas. "As rural hospitals we battle to attract South African doctors because of the poor service conditions, so many of our personnel are new-

ly-qualified doctors from other countries, especially Britain."

Helen Pons, also from the hospital, added: "It was to have been a lovely break for them. I can't believe it's ended in such tragedy. The atmosphere here is very sombre. We are all walking around in a daze."

"They were all lovely people and our hearts go out to their families at a terrible time like this. It's a devastating blow to the hospital. They were doing vital work here. We only had six doctors and now two have been killed."

The victims' families were believed to be making arrangements to travel to South Africa.

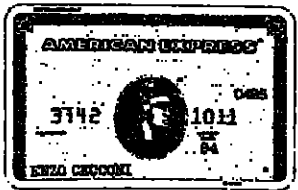
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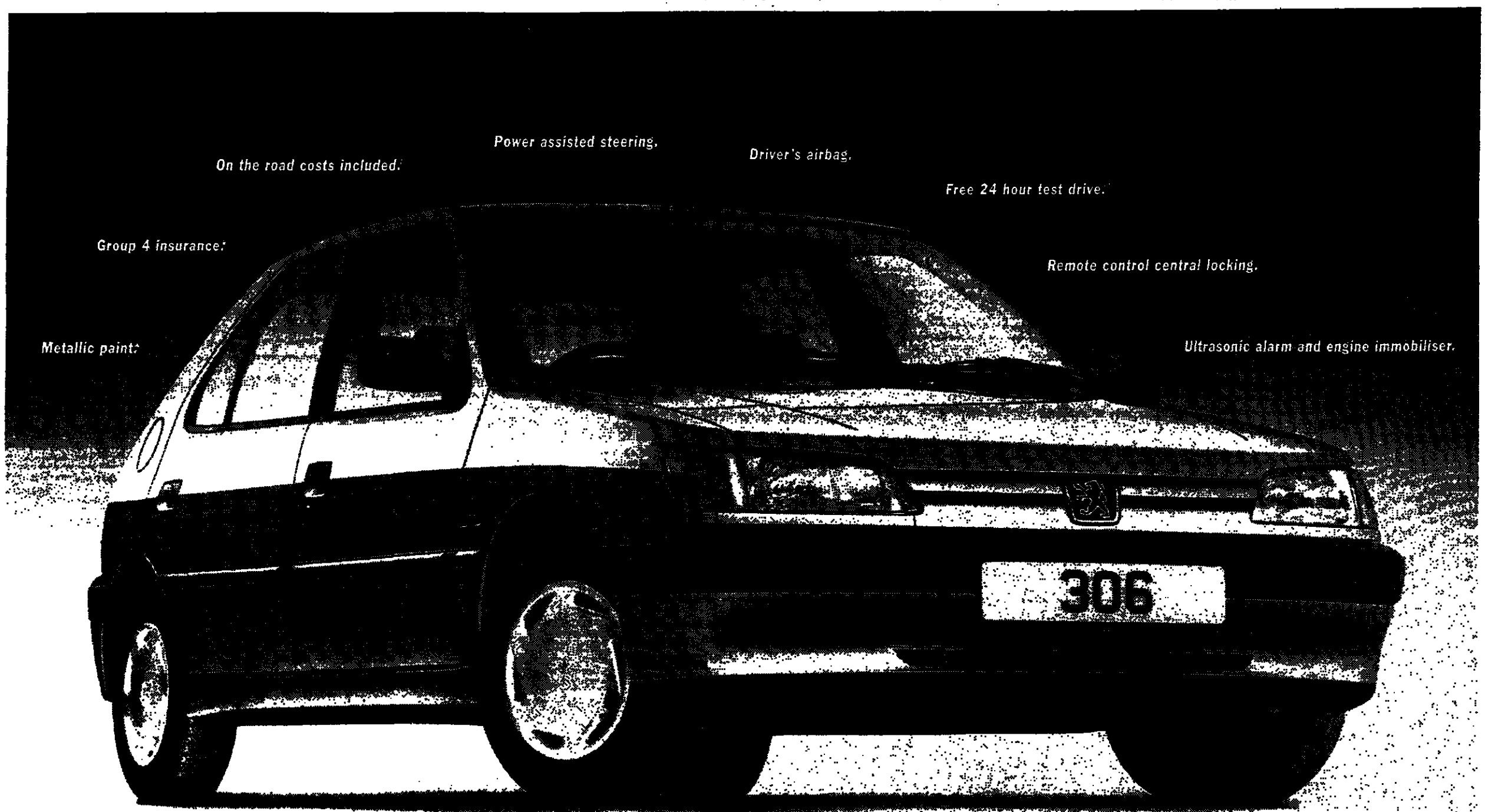
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مكتبة الامم

Climber's family keep K2 pledge

Tim McGirk in Skardu, Pakistan, talks to Jim Ballard, who took his children to see the fatal peak

For 10 days, Jim Ballard accompanied by his two young children, Tom, seven, and Kate, four, had trekked up into the Karakoram range in the Himalayas for a glimpse of the K2 peak where the children's mother, Britain's most famous female climber, Alison Hargreaves, fell to her death.

"I had to fulfil a promise to Tom that I'd show him and his sister, Kate, their mummy's last mountain. We did it," he told the *Independent* on return to Skardu, the final outpost in the Pakistan Himalayas for mountaineering expeditions.

Experts in Britain had warned Mr Ballard, 49, not to drag his children along to K2, which after Everest is the second highest peak in the world. When they set off on this odyssey, Mr Ballard was attacked by grief or, worse, driven to risk his children's lives for publicity, to cash in on lucrative book and television deals.

The usual trek to K2 crosses glaciers with traps of unseen crevices, fields of boulders as immense as a city and treacherous rapids. In the wrong season, Mr Ballard was cautioned, the approach can be nearly as hazardous as the mighty mountain itself. It is now thought that Ms Hargreaves, 33, and six other climbers on the 13 August summit ascent were probably swept into oblivion by a maelstrom of a 260-mile-per-hour wind which struck them on Abruzzi Ridge just below the 28,251ft (8,570m) peak.

"There's a thin line between adventure and danger. I made sure we never put a foot over that line," Mr Ballard claimed. "Why, the most dangerous bit was probably driving through London." Accompanying the family were two doctors who carried oxygen in case the children suffered from high altitude sickness, an expert mountaineer provided by the Pakistani government, porters and a BBC film crew covering the Ballards' "inner and outer journey" to K2. Mr Ballard felt it unsafe to take the children above 11,500ft (3,488m). The BBC provided him with logistical help but did not pay him a fee.

"Kate, being the four-year-old superstar that she is, rode on a porter's shoulders. But Tom insisted on walking most of the way on his own. The boy is a lot like his mother, given to quiet thought," Mr Ballard said.

The Ballard party skirted along the foot of the Karakoram glaciers, which are the world's longest outside the Arctic region. They spent days



Family pilgrimage: Jim Ballard with Tom, seven, and Kate, four, at Thungla on their way to K2. Photograph: Muzammil Pasha

climbing across boulders that were "like an enormous building site". They forded rapids on precarious rope bridges. And at night, they buried themselves in thick down sleeping bags to survive temperatures of -15C.

At first sight, K2 was swirled in cloud, and Mr Ballard had to check his compass bearings to make sure they were not con-

fusing the peak with others in the vast Karakoram range. They camped, and next day dawned clear. K2 peak, still 10 miles away, loomed in its grandeur before them. "The day was so perfect it was unreal," Mr Ballard said.

Asked about the reaction of his energetic children to seeing the peak where their mother was killed, Mr Ballard replied: "Any-

one who has a four-year-old knows that these things don't really register - not that we can tell anyway. But Tom said he wanted to sit and think of his mum. So we all did. We saw the bit of the mountain where Alison last stood. You couldn't fail to be moved by K2. It's a mountain of savage beauty."

Just how the accident which

killed Ms Hargreaves along with three Spaniards, an American, a New Zealander and a Canadian occurred may never be known for sure. But after talking with survivors from the expedition, Mr Ballard disputes the accepted version that his wife and the others were possessed by "summit fever" and made a fatal error of judgement

'We saw the bit of mountain where Alison last stood. It has a savage beauty'

in attempting a final lunge to the top before the storms closed in.

"It will always be conjecture. But it seems the weather appeared fine when they started out. Then these jet streams kicked up off the Tibetan plateau, winds up to 260mph, and it struck the spot where they were on K2 with pinpoint accuracy. If they'd been just 15 minutes further down the mountain, they'd have been knocked about but they would have been safe. As it happened, these winds struck them with the force of three jet engines and blew them into oblivion," Mr Ballard said.

The climbers fell 6,000ft (1,820m) before hitting ice and rock. "Spaniards said the bodies landed in a large scoop. Next spring when all the climbers go back, the bodies will be covered with snow," Mr Ballard said, adding: "One of the daftest questions I got asked back in London is if I was taking the kids to collect Alison's body."

Mr Ballard swears that he only went to K2 to satisfy his promise to Tom. He quotes Proverbs that: "It is better to have lived one day as a tiger than a thousand years as a sheep", and he says he has no sympathy for "the bleating" that goes on when sportsmen die on mountains or in Grand Prix racing.

Yet behind his stoicism, the loss of Alison, 16 years his junior, must have grieved Mr Ballard deeply. He recognised her "genius as a mountaineer" and he was happy to let his own life orbit around her high altitude career. He looked after the children, organised her sponsorships, publicity and encouraged her without any trace of envy over her fame.

He is happy to burnish the image of Ms Hargreaves as "a permanent icon", a short and rather cherubic-looking woman whose courage and grit helped her scale the world's most challenging peaks without oxygen. But the private side of his famous wife he keeps hidden. No doubt he felt it as important as his son did to close the chapter on his wife's death by seeing the mountain.

Mr Ballard pointed to a table of diners in an inn. "If Alison were sitting there, you wouldn't notice her. She didn't look like a climber. She was small, pretty, compact. I don't know why she captured the world's imagination. People need adventure in their lives. Maybe Alison showed them it was possible. I wanted my kids to know that there are wild places on earth where Nature is still king or queen or even dictator."

Marija cowered in a cellar, praying the armed men would not find her. But they dragged her out and took her away. She has never been seen or heard from again.

Marija is one of about 20,000 people in the former Yugoslavia who have "disappeared" - one more victim of a war in which the human rights of innocent people on all sides have been systematically trampled on and abused.

Four years after she was abducted, in the autumn of 1991, Marija's husband and teenage children still don't know whether she is alive or dead. They cannot even mourn. Their agony never ceases. Their grief never dies. The wound never heals.

This is why, of all the weapons of political repression, "disappearance" is the most cruel.

The list of atrocities from former Yugoslavia is numbing and unending. Each week seems to bring a new harvest of horror. People's human rights are being brutalised. At this very instant, someone is crying in a torture chamber, or in a prison cell.

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MOJO

They're back!

Cover versions: From left, Mojo magazine shows the mop-top, psychedelic and soon-to-retire Beatles

JOHN MCKIE

Next month, an upsurge in Beatlemania looks likely on a level not seen since the Fab Four's heyday in the Sixties. November sees the release of a single, recorded by Paul, George and Ringo with old vocals from John, widely expected to be the Christmas number one. A six-part ITV series, *The Beatles Anthology*, with exclusive archive material on the Fab Four, is also to be screened.

But now, *MOJO* magazine has come up with perhaps the most lavish tribute. In an unprecedented move, the music magazine is producing three separate covers for its November edition, out on Tuesday. The three covers feature the band from their mop-top era in 1964, their psychedelic period in 1967 and their last days in 1968. The edition devotes 70 pages to the band and the magazine is hoping it will become a collector's item.

MOJO's editor Mat Snow denies that the decision to use three covers is a marketing ploy. "The Beatles were huge stars from 1963 to 1969 and they had numerous image changes. Everyone has their favourite Beatles image."

"It's an idea we have learned from the recording industry: just as they have several different mixes for a record, we have three different covers."

The idea of multiple magazine covers is one that has gained popularity in recent months. In August, *Q* offered readers the choice between two covers - one of the model Helena Christensen and one with the actor Hugh Grant - while London's listings magazine *Time Out* produced two covers, one showing a model with a T-shirt proclaiming "North London Sucks" and the other in which the T-shirt read "South London Sucks".

Mr Snow was keen to stress the difference with *MOJO*'s three covers. "I would love people to buy all three but, although the covers are different, the content inside is the same. We believe they will be collected and kept in 20 years' time."

Benefit claimants 'losing vital lifeline'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS

Almost a quarter of a million applications for a loan to the Social Fund have been turned down because those seeking help were judged too poor to be able to repay, according to official figures.

The fund, set up in 1986, provides the emergency safety net for people on income support who take the interest-free loans to buy furniture, cookers or other capital items, with the repayments deducted from their benefit. However, those with existing loans or who already have direct deductions to meet fuel or other debts can be refused a loan on the grounds that they have too little benefit left to make the repayments.

Refusals on the ground of inability to pay have more than doubled since 1992-93, up from 44,890 to 116,095 last year, according to figures provided by Ian Magee, chief executive of the Benefits Agency, to Alan Milburn, Labour MP for Darlington. Precise comparisons are difficult due to a switch from counting applications for loans to counting the number of items refused. But refusals on one count or the other now total almost 250,000 over the past three years.

Mr Milburn said the figures showed that Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, was betraying his pledge to target help on the most needy. "The very people that the Social Fund was designed to help now find they are too poor to qualify," he said. "Even before ministers take the axe to social security spending again, thousands of vulnerable people are being left without a vital lifeline."

news

Hackers 'costing firms millions' in telephone fraud

CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Correspondent

Businesses are facing "a plague" of telephone hackers, who can run up bills of thousands of pounds in a few weeks by exploiting flaws in modern switchboard systems.

A large British company based in London incurred a £500,000 bill when hackers used a dozen of its phone lines during the night, for two months, to make calls to the US, Africa, India, Pakistan and Russia.

One hospital saw its phone bill rocket by £50,000 in a single week when phone hackers calling from outside found a weakness in its switchboard, and used it to make calls to China.

The Independent has found that phone fraud, which exploits combinations of flaws in freephone numbers, voicemail systems and modern automatic switchboards, has been growing rapidly since the end of 1993, when the telecommunications watchdog Ofcom first allowed the sale of switchboards which can

forward external calls to outside lines. Phone hackers can exploit this to call via the switchboard to other numbers. Industry estimates reckon phone hacking is now costing companies millions of pounds every year.

But victims of fraud contacted by the Independent are reluctant to be named because they say it could ruin their companies' credibility. Some companies are understood to be reluctant to pursue court cases even after identifying hackers because they fear negative publicity. Many are angry that they were not warned by the manufacturers of the switchboards about the potential for hacking.

"We think consumers are super-sensitive to the idea of hackers, and as a software company we don't want our name associated with it," said an executive at the British subsidiary of an American software company. "We came in one morning and were getting no calls at all on our direct sales line. Then we found the hacker had reconfigured it to call the United States."

run up a £40,000 bill in a couple of weeks, said: "I think people in industry aren't aware that modern voicemail and switchboard systems really are computers, and so are vulnerable to hacking. We didn't know what was going on."

But John Chatterton, an independent consultant who has advised a number of companies on how to stop phone fraud, said: "Nobody tells the truth about this because it's too embarrassing to admit. I have been trying to get companies to take these cases to court but they are reluctant to be named publicly."

The managers at the software company and the oil company say they were not warned about the possibility of hackers abusing their system by the makers of the switchboards. "We didn't understand what was happening," said the executive of the software company. "We came in one morning and were getting no calls at all on our direct sales line. Then we found the hacker had reconfigured it to call the United States."



River victims: Vet Andy Routh with swans being treated at the RSPCA hospital in Nantwich, Cheshire, after 2,000 litres of heavy fuel oil leaked into the Mersey from a chemical plant's storage tank at Warrington. A wildlife rescue operation was underway yesterday. Photograph: Ian Millar

Inspectors to single out poor teachers

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Individual teachers could be picked out for criticism or praise on their lessons and on how well their pupils are performing under a new, slimmed-down school inspection system to be announced tomorrow.

Schools will also be judged on the amount of homework they set, even for the youngest pupils, and will be expected to account for how they use the free time gained when the content of the National Curriculum was cut.

But teachers' leaders say the framework could also back up a pledge by the Prime Minister last month that inspectors should name a school's weakest or strongest staff. In the past, judgements have been made on school departments rather than on individuals.

Officials say details of the Prime Minister's scheme are still under discussion, but leaked draft guidance on the new inspection framework says teachers will be judged on how well they know their subjects, whether their lessons are well matched to the curriculum, whether their pupils are well motivated and whether they are able to raise expectations. They will also be expected to show that they are using resources efficiently and assessing pupils' progress properly.

Last week, Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, was attacked for announcing complete inspections of two London boroughs on the eve of the Conservative Party conference. Now teachers' leaders have complained that John Ma-

jo's plans were not discussed during the consultation period on the new inspection measures. They say the moves will intensify opposition to an already unpopular inspection system.

Tomorrow's announcement is designed mainly to allow inspectors to concentrate on literacy and numeracy, and cut down on unnecessary paperwork.

Further changes to the privatised school inspection system - under which all secondary schools will be visited by 1997 and primary schools by 1998 - are also under discussion. Plans expected to be complete by the end of this year could mean that good schools will wait six years before their next inspection while weaker schools will be revisited after two.

Plans to allow schools to evaluate their own progress, monitored by inspectors, now seem to have stalled.

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads Association and a member of Ofsted's consultation group on inspections, said that it had never discussed allowing inspectors to judge individual teachers.

However, he added that the new framework's emphasis on teaching and learning could strengthen the Prime Minister's plans, and that this would be bound to prove harmful. Schools could only be improved with the co-operation of everyone in them, he argued.

"It does not seem helpful to have a model of inspection which is seen to be hostile to the individual."

"All that will happen is that individuals will tighten ranks to fight off this enemy," he said.

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news

Ashdown in move to educate parents

Donald Macintyre talks to Paddy Ashdown as the post-conference dust settles on a new relationship between his party and Labour

This is where we came in. In cinematic terms it was the Liberal Democrats who, back in September, provided the first feature of the conference programme, and Paddy Ashdown is understandably keen to remind voters, after two solid weeks of Labour and Tory as the main attractions, that he is still box office.

Yesterday, having seen Alan Howarth defect a week earlier to Labour without pausing to consider Mr Ashdown's party as an alternative, the Lib Dem leader shot a letter to all Tory MPs exhorting them to line up with his party by lobbying Kenneth Clarke to restore the cuts which resulted from the education budget last year, ensure a significant spending increase in this year's, and to vote against the Budget if necessary.

Although Mr Ashdown will not say so, the letter is clearly aimed at the 30-to-40 one-nation MPs whom Mr Howarth claims are potentially as disaffected as he is himself.

Yesterday, Mr Ashdown lent his voice, as a former member of the special forces, to the chorus of denunciation of Michael Portillo for suborning Britain's military, including the SAS, for party political purposes in his "Don't Mess with Britain" speech last Tuesday.

The typical special forces soldier, Mr Ashdown said scathingly, is not some kind of "lager lout" in uniform, but "thinking, serious, very intelligent", and deeply resents being used as a politician's "prop".

If [Michael Portillo] doesn't know better than that, he said, "he shouldn't be doing the job".

Tomorrow, Mr Ashdown makes an important speech to the Institute for Education and it is in this arena that Mr Ashdown has most to say at present. Unlike Tony Blair, he has come out unequivocally in favour of an extra £2bn on education spending, and against the use of spare money to cut income tax, so he is perhaps even better placed than Labour to try and intervene in the argument raging between Gillian Shepherd and the Treasury on her budget for next year.

But it is on standards that Mr Ashdown is proposing something rather interesting, if sketchy, within the party's organisational plans: the grant-maintained-style freedom of financial management for all schools, coupled with "light touch strategic control" by local authorities; strengthened powers for inspections; a General Teachers' Council to maintain professional standards, and a "modularised" system of 14-to-19 education which allows maximum freedom to students to pass between vocational and academic courses.

But he will also raise the issue of parents' obligations. Mr Ashdown is envisaging a "contract between school and home" in which parents are given a much clearer notion by the school of how they can help and encourage their children. He and his education spokesman, Don Foster, have been discussing with the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations the idea of "requiring" the parents of each child to go to induction meetings on homework and home liaison officers in every school with the task of visiting pupils' homes and discussing problems with their parents. And as a last resort, they would consider running classes for parents, especially in inner city areas where the culture of parental involvement in education may be least developed. He sees parents' involvement as the most "cost-effective" action which can be taken to improve education standards. Mr Ashdown is conscious, of course, that this fits in well with what Tony Blair has been saying about individual rights being matched by responsibilities.

Which brings us again to the question of how the conference season has left his relations with the Labour Party. Clearly he admires Mr Blair's speech to a "highly successful" Labour conference. But he has sharp criticisms too. He is still irritated by Mr Blair's apparent, though deniable, attempt to upstage his own conference with an interview extending the prospect of co-operation between the two parties. He is less than impressed by the deal that Mr Blair announced with BT. Labour, he insisted, sold itself "cheap" and looked as if it was "picking up brightly coloured pebbles from other people's beaches". He abhors, too, the personalised attacks on his candidature at Littleborough and Saddleworth as undermining new Labour's commitment to pluralism. And he is hating Mr Blair on his "equivocation on proportional representation."

Mr Ashdown claims it is a positive electoral benefit to the Lib Dems if they are the only party with a distinct commitment to PR. But he finds it "genuinely surprising" that Mr Blair won't commit himself on a position in the referendum he has promised.



On thinking terms: Paddy Ashdown steps back into the limelight with ideas on education, defence, and party allegiance Photograph: Philip Meech

But between the lines of the continued, sometimes strident, complaints on both sides it is still reasonable to expect that after the post-conference dust has settled, the Lib Dems' break with equidistance between the two main parties will gradually come to bear more fruit. Mr Ashdown is sounding warmer about the idea that both parties should start pre-election talks on the daunting mechanics of getting those elements of constitutional reform on which they agree – like freedom of information and the Scottish Parliament – through the Commons. Secondly, he is now floating the idea of co-operation. And he notes approvingly that Mr Ashdown is gradually embracing his own beloved principle of "hypothecated", or earmarked taxes.

But isn't Mr Ashdown now leading the only "tax-and-spend" party? Far from it, he says. Labour has a record which means they have now to "wrap it all in cotton wool, say as little as possible, and look as macho on tax as they can". The Lib

Dems, with their pledge to deliver a costed manifesto, is the "promises with a bill attached" party, combining commitments to social justice and "economic toughness" – including a specific 3-per-cent inflation target. Mr Ashdown rejects as "obsolete" the term "left", and embraces the term "radical" which he interprets as "prepared to go to the roots of the problem and address it in an honest and courageous way".

What he will allow is that at a time when Labour is still showing "extraordinary timidity" the party has now, perhaps, "come home" to its tradition of "conscience and reform" that, as he put in in his Glasgow speech, informed its sweep to power in 1906.

At the beginning of the year there had been three crucial questions: Would Tony Blair modernise Labour? Would the Tories self-destruct? Would the Liberal Democrats be swept aside? The answers had been yes, no and no.

Mr Ashdown said: "We've ended a very tough year intact and are still building. The party is better placed and better understands its role than any time since I came into the House of Commons."

Children reject parents' lack of a marriage

GLENDIA COOPER

Most children from one-parent families want a traditional marriage, thinking it should be forever and that it is better to live with two parents than one.

Divorce may have increased fourfold over the last 24 years, with four out of ten marriages ending in divorce, but the 500 10- to 17-year-olds questioned by Mori, from both one- and two-parent families, retain enormous faith in the sanctity of marriage and want it to stay that way. More than 4 million (54 per cent) "worry a lot" about their parents splitting up.

Two million children are being brought up by a single parent and the number of such families has more than doubled since 1971 – from 9 per cent to 21 per cent. One in three children is born outside marriage. Lone parenthood has been blamed for the rise in crime rates, psychosocial disorders and poor exam qualifications. Traditional family life is seen as under constant threat.

But the poll, commissioned by *Readers' Digest*, does not show that children share that view. Four-fifths declared that they would get married themselves one day. The view was shared almost equally between boys (80 per cent) and girls (83 per cent). And children whose parents had separated or divorced are just as likely to consider marriage as those whose parents are still together.

More than seven out of ten children from one-parent families also felt that marriage should be forever, and nearly 60 per cent believe it is better to live with two parents than one.

Karin Pappenheim, of the National Council For One Parent Families, said: "Marriage remains the norm and most young people reflect the idea. It shows that the majority of lone parents and children have not chosen to be in those circumstances, but it has been forced upon them. But their practical experience does give the lie to their ideal of getting married forever. The tragedy is their ideal is later shattered by marriage breakdown."

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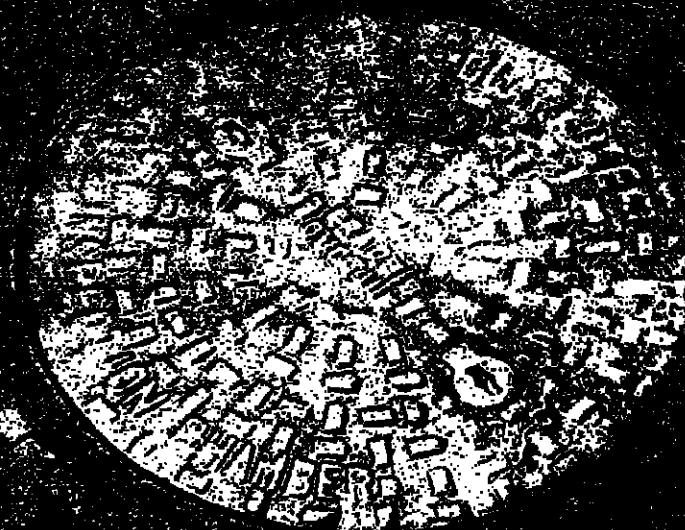
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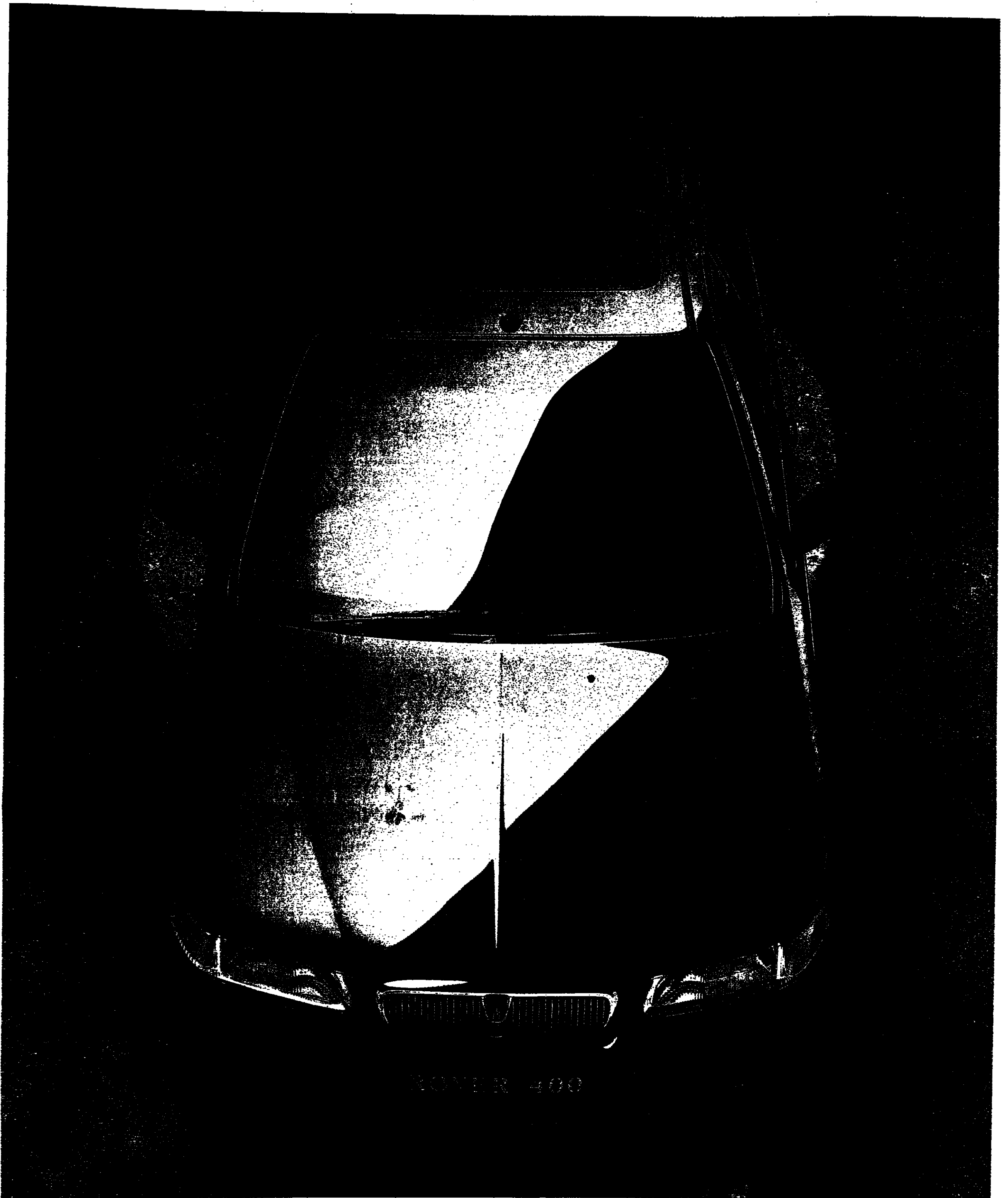
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Designers hit back at copyright pirates

"It was very scary. They really try to bully you not to do anything," she said. "It doesn't occur to people that designers are trained to come up with ideas and that ideas are their living. If you steal them, it's the same as shoplifting merchandise."



Court victor beats retreat

Those defending copyright run the risk of accumulating huge legal costs. However, this risk has been reduced following a change in the law in 1988, allowing such cases to go through the criminal courts, a much speedier process. The significance of this is more than just financial, she said, as offenders receive a criminal conviction and not just a fine that they can soon forget about.

Ms Byrne said: "A lot of heart has gone into my work. Theft of an idea is theft of a livelihood."

Canal towpaths could become cycle routes

Mr Norris said: "The use of towpaths for cycling particularly in the London area presents attractive options for both leisure and commuting". He stressed that towpaths could accommodate both cyclists and other users such as anglers and walkers, providing they all recognised each other's needs.

DAILY POEM

From **Railway Songs**

By Sean O'Brien

*When the County Grounds are hailed-on and empty
And the miserable old parties who snapped
In Leeds and Sheffield, Middlesbrough and Hull,
'We'll have that wireless off' are dead and stuffed,
The special lines remain between the cricket and their graves.*

*Likewise 'The masters who taught us are dead',
But we have hung on with our oddments of habit,
Pausing perhaps when the sun strikes the red and green glass
In the porch, or inclined to believe
That the groundsman who made an exception to death*

*And sits there grinning silently
At Workers' Playtime on the wireless in his hut,
With a goods train sliding past just out of earshot.*

*The Mallard comes steaming out of its frame
And the four-minute mile waits like Everest -
Cinder tracks everywhere, sodden and virtuous.*

*Coal-coloured sandshoes and wet, gritty legs,
While shunters go by, bringing rain to Hull Fair,
To the trains made of china, the trains full of goldfish,*

*The half-naked girl-in-a-tank-with-a-train,
The dripping back flap of the Ghost Train,
The driver's mate waving at no one.*

Last Thursday evening - National Poetry Day - saw the announcement of the Forward Poetry Prizes and the publication of the 1995 Forward Book of Poetry. The £10,000 prize for Best Collection went to Sean O'Brien for the recently published *Ghost Train* (GUP). Trains, whooshing and steaming up and down the east coast, bind the book's scenery together, link past and present, and appear as backdrops to tiny vignettes of life: angry young men, glimpsed girls, vicars-cum-station-masters, signalmen and guards.

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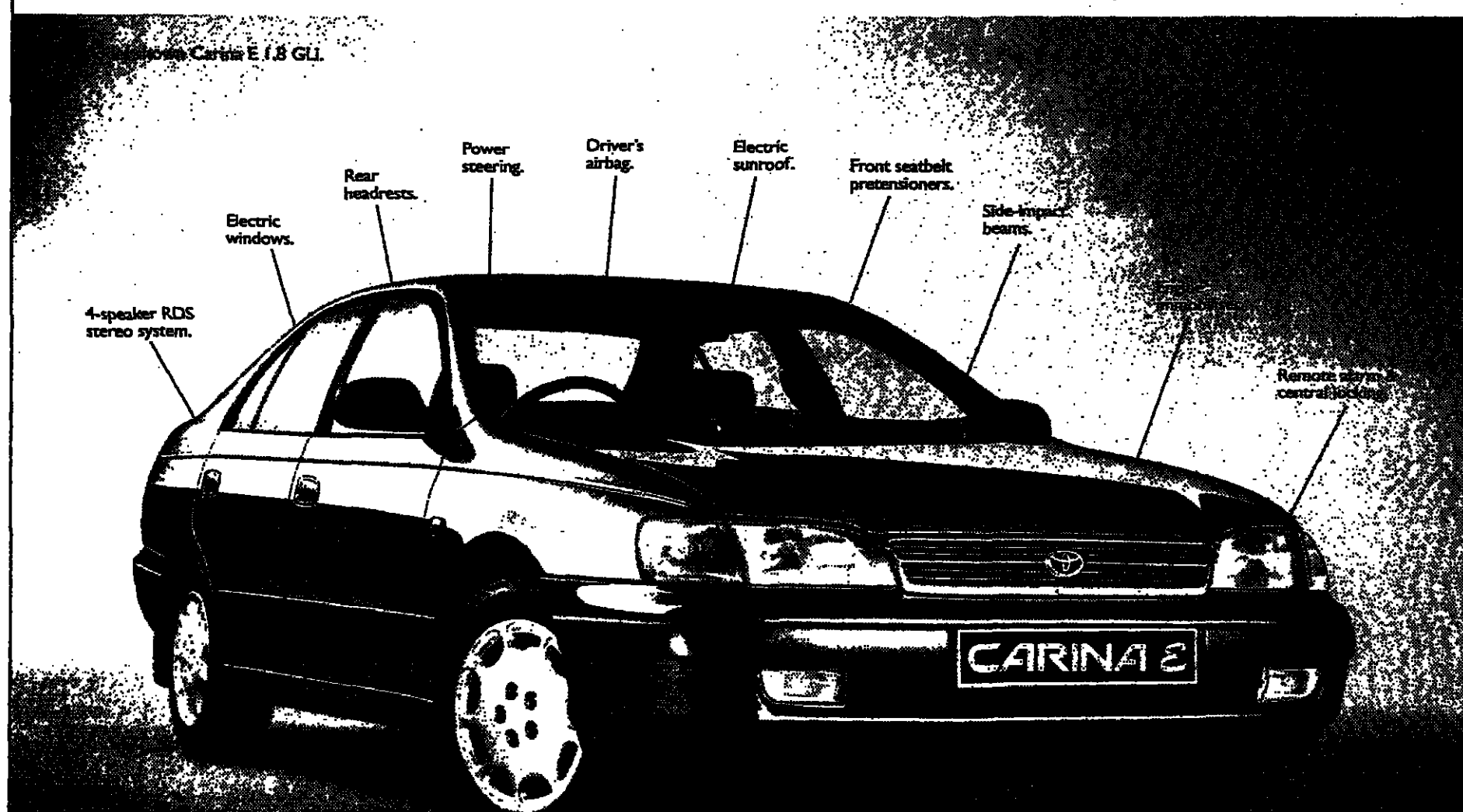
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among the people who knew they could move their mortgage, a lot of

them felt that it probably wasn't worth the hassle or expense. They felt the time taken filling in forms could be better spent doing other things. However, most people were totally unaware of the size of the savings they could make.

"Once you've sorted your mortgage, what's the point of changing it? It's just more aggravation." Mr Kumpson, Cambridgeshire

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international

Juppé and Jospin redraw the political battle-lines

MARY DEJEVSKY
Marne-la-Vallée

Exhibiting a bizarre mixture of defiance and contrition following his recent political difficulties, the French prime minister Alain Juppé was yesterday elected leader of the Gaullist RPR party in succession to Jacques Chirac.

Mr Juppé, the only candidate, received 93 per cent of the more than 70,000 votes cast during a day of stage-managed festivities in the Disneyland conference centre outside Paris.

In a victory speech designed to stress party unity, rally the faithful and reassert the authority of his government and its loyalty to Mr Chirac's campaign promises, Mr Juppé made one brief allusion to his brush with the law over his cut-price Paris flat.

He had, he said, endured a test "which will mark me for a long time". Mr Juppé and members of his family who benefi-

ed from subsidised flats have undertaken to move out by the end of the year.

Yesterday's occasion was attended by 20,000 delegates, who arrived startled by early morning Disney tourists festooned with Mickey Mouse memorabilia. Inside the giant marquee, they were treated to an occasion replete with tricolours, jazz band, T-shirted cheerleaders and stylised crosses of Lorraine, all clearly designed to arrest the sharp fall in Mr Juppé's poll ratings and revive the spirit of triumph in which Mr Chirac was elected President five months ago.

The election of Mr Juppé as Gaullist leader brought to a close a weekend that could have been dubbed "French politics - the relaunch." On Saturday, the Socialist party had completed the formal election of Lionel Jospin as the party's new first secretary. Mr Jospin, the Socialist defeated with honour in the presidential elec-

tions, obtained more than 94 per cent of the poll of party members in a turnout of 66 per cent.

Mr Jospin, who topped the first round poll in the presidential election and achieved an unexpectedly high 47 per cent of the vote in the run-off against Mr Chirac, is now effectively leader of the left-wing opposition. In a rousing speech, reminiscent of his later presidential campaign addresses, Mr Jospin called on party activists to work on a return to power. He also named a new party secretariat, which combines some of his campaign team with members of the previous leadership, including the outgoing first secretary, Henri Emmanuelli.

Although the left has lost the presidency and has barely 20 per cent of parliamentary seats, it is politically stronger than it looks - because of the high public esteem in which Mr Jospin is held and the sharp fall in the popularity of the president and the prime minister.

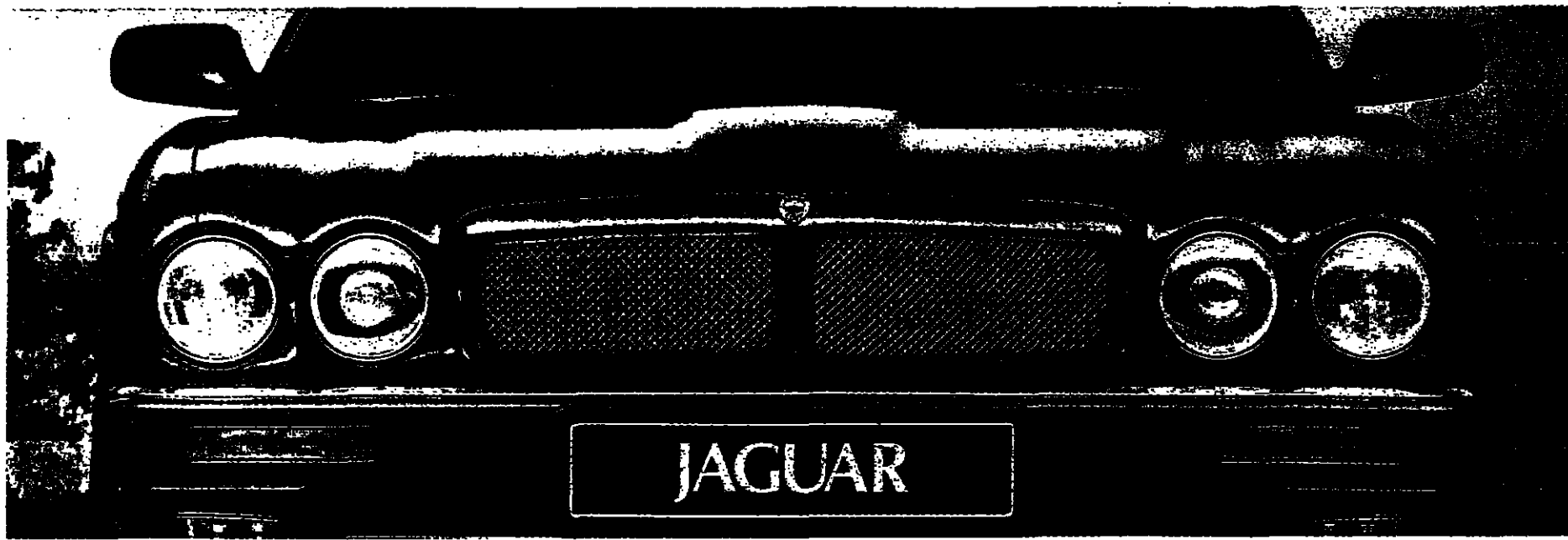
While Mr Juppé's share of the poll to become Gaullist leader was close to that of Mr Jospin's in becoming Socialist leader, there was a distinct lack of comparable warmth at yesterday's gathering. The "Young Gaullists" had to be prompted to chant: "Juppé, Juppé" at appropriate moments, and were still handing out mass produced Juppé placards as the afternoon session opened. At times, Mr Juppé seemed in danger of being upstaged by his erstwhile rival for the RPR leadership, Philippe Séguin, whose every appearance was greeted with loud cheers.

Mr Séguin's expression of support for Mr Juppé was the bare minimum and his two main calls - for structural reforms of the state and cutting the budget deficit, including a cut in interest rates which - could only be achieved by dropping the "strong franc" policy - set considerable distance between himself and Mr Juppé.



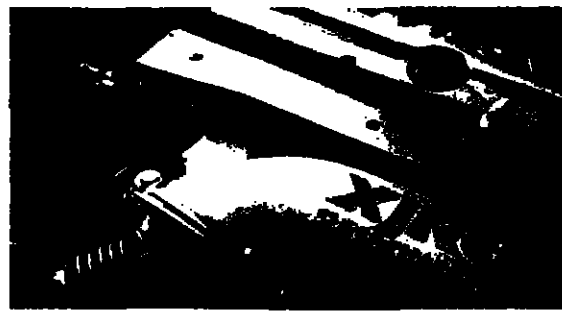
Right on: French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, reacting to his election as leader of the Gaullist RPR Photograph: AP

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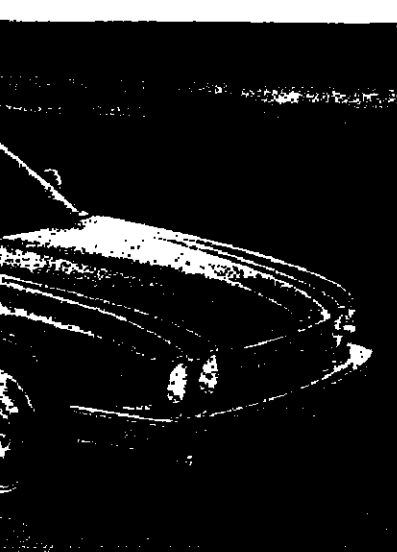
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CDU leader says currency union will go ahead

Wolfgang Schäuble, a potential Chancellor, tells Steve Crawshaw why EMU will succeed

Bonn — "Germany has taken many decisions since 1945 — joining Nato, for example — without taking notice of opinion polls. We can go against current majorities in opinion polls. And, afterwards, we go on to win the elections."

Thus, Wolfgang Schäuble, the man nominated to succeed Chancellor Helmut Kohl, dismisses the widespread suspicion of a single European currency, which would get rid of the beloved German mark.

Perhaps because he was talking to a British newspaper, Mr Schäuble could afford to be blunter than he would dare to be on German television.

Speaking ahead of the party conference of the governing Christian Democrats, which begins today, Mr Schäuble refused to budge a centimetre towards the sceptics: "We have signed and ratified the Maastricht treaty [including a timetable for monetary union]. We're committed to it. And opinion polls change nothing in that."

In an interview with the *Independent*, Mr Schäuble was determined to dispel doubts about the feasibility of monetary union, a subject which will be on the agenda this week. Mr Schäuble still wants to convert the non-believers: "It's a question of political priorities. In Germany, too, it hasn't been easy. In the British press, it was considered impossible that Germany would fulfil the criteria for monetary union [because of the huge debt burden of German unification]. But we managed. We think that if others make efforts, they can do it."

Popular German doubts, he argued, will be dispelled in the end: "We must make it clear that a European currency will play a stabilising role."

He claims he is not bothered by the future unleashed last month by the Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, who was dismissive about Italy's ability to meet the targets. The Italian government was furious and the lira went into free fall. But Mr Schäuble, Germany's chief strategist on Europe, insists that Mr Waigel was merely stating the obvious.

Mr Waigel's comments to a closed parliamentary committee were buried in an official parliamentary newsletter. He was sceptical about Italy fulfilling the Maastricht criteria on inflation, debt burden, interest rates and budget deficit, by 1999.

The Italian government must have known that officials in Bonn have been making the same point for months. None the less, in a dramatic reflection of the relationship between media and markets, the drama exploded when a Reuters news agency dispatch highlighted Mr Waigel's remarks. The lira collapsed and the Italians were enraged.

German officials suggest that Mr Waigel's comments may have forced the Italians to concentrate harder on the need to meet the criteria. Mr Schäuble insists that the gospel according to Bonn remains constant: "First we want currency union to begin, as agreed in the Maastricht treaty. Second, we don't want the stability criteria to be weakened."

Mr Schäuble, who is coming to Britain to lecture in Oxford next month, will probably have meetings with John Major and the leader of the Opposition,

Tony Blair, during his stay.

He insists that he is not worried by the fear and loathing of Europe in some sections of the British Conservative Party, as was highlighted by recent remarks by the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo.

He insists on Mr Major's Euro-friendliness, and says: "John Major has won through." He is cautiously optimistic also about Labour's pro-European policies, although he expresses a fear that Labour might reduce its Euro-enthusiasm once it is in power: "There may be a difference between what a Labour leader says as an opposition leader and what he says as a prime minister."

The 52-year-old Mr Schäuble occupies a special position in German politics. His official post is leader of the parliamentary floor group of the Christian Democrats. But he wields more power than many government ministers, probably including the Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel.

Mr Schäuble is in a special position in another respect. Five years ago this month, a few days after German unification, he narrowly survived an assassination attempt, which left him wheelchair-bound.

There is a *sotto voce* debate within the Christian Democrats,



Schäuble: Blunt opinions

about whether a wheelchair-bound Chancellor could do the job. More striking, however, is the extent to which his chair is now ignored in Germany. Mr Schäuble, often seen as the chief Machiavellian in Bonn, is not a man to be patronised.

Mr Schäuble himself drolly notes: "The job of the federal chancellor is not designed for the reintegration of the handicapped. That must be acknowledged." He regards debate on the subject of physical difficulties as "legitimate". As he himself points out, however, he has already demonstrated that it is possible to carry out a demanding, high-profile job from a wheelchair. In that respect, he hopes that his presence in such a prominent post may have set an example that employers and society can heed.

Theoretically, he is still the successor-in-waiting to Helmut Kohl. Still, Mr Kohl, who said last year that he would not stand again in 1998, has long since backtracked from that position. Mr Schäuble insists he is not bothered: "I'm not in a waiting room. I'm in my own room. I like what I do. And I've never regretted it for one minute," he said.

Mr Schäuble is not a man to say no to the Big One. He acknowledges: "Being Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany wouldn't be boring, that's for sure." But he insists: "The question hasn't come up. And I'm glad that it hasn't."

Some ceasefire!
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Bosnia ceasefire: As government army silences its guns, Serbs argue over causes of defeat

Muslims call halt to offensive

EMMA DAILY
Sarajevo

Battlefields fell quiet in north-west Bosnia yesterday as the government, apparently satisfied with its autumn offensive in the north-west and under international pressure to adhere to the cease-fire it signed, halted attacks on Serbs in the area.

Victories by the Bosnian army in Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad have sown panic among Bosnian Serb leaders, who took the unusual step of inviting UN observers to inspect the front lines. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, reopened old wounds with his military commanders by blaming unnamed generals for the defeats.

UN monitors headed for Mrkonjic Grad last night; their arrival should improve the peace-keepers' ability to monitor the cease-fire and report breaches. Hostility between the warring armies is fiercest in north-west Bosnia, where Serbs earlier killed or expelled thousands of Muslims.

The UN, if it is allowed access on the government side, will want to investigate reports of recent atrocities and older mass graves on territory lost by the Serbs. Bosnian troops took journalists to see 14 bodies, dead for several weeks, at two sites near Sanski Most. They suggested they were Muslims used as slave labour and shot by retreating Serb forces.

Emir Karic, a Sanski Most official, said about 300 men were unaccounted for and feared dead. "The Serbs briefly withdrew from Sanski Most over a month ago but after two days

came back to harass the Muslims. They expelled about 2,000 women and children to Zenica and Travnik. They kept about 1,000 men." He added that half of those had been forced to withdraw with the Serbs. "We found 200 alive here and 300 are feared killed. We have already found and identified 100 bodies in various locations."

The ground between Prijedor - the one prize still in Serb hands - Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad, which once formed a defensive line around the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, is infamous for atrocities committed against Muslims in 1992 and, the UN says, until the past few days.

By a twist of fate, 25,000 Serb civilians fleeing the Bosnian advance are now housed at Omarska, once a concentration camp run by Serbs. The defeats and the plight of more than 100,000 Serb refugees from the battle have traumatised the Bosnian Serb leadership.

"We must know who is responsible for a considerable loss of territory and military defeats, and those responsible will have to bear the consequences," Mr Karadzic said.

However, nine independent members of the Bosnian Serb assembly called for a "government of national salvation" to replace Mr Karadzic's administration.

■ Mons, Belgium (Reuters) — Russia and Nato got down to the details yesterday of planning a 60,000-strong force to implement an eventual Bosnia peace settlement. Russia has offered up to 20,000 troops but has insisted that they will not come under direct Nato control.



War weary: A Bosnian soldier rests in recently recaptured Sanski Most

Photograph: Chris Helgren/Reuters

IN BRIEF

Four to contest Algerian presidency

Paris — Four men are to contest Algeria's presidential election next month after completing a qualifying test that eliminated former prime minister Redha Malek — earlier seen by many as the most serious challenger to President Liamine Zeroual. Mr Malek, 64, failed to gather the necessary 75,000 signatures to back his candidacy, a test passed by Mr Zeroual and three others — moderate Islamist intellectual Nouredine Boukrouh, the staunchly anti-Islamist Said Saadi, and Muslim fundamentalist leader Sheikh Mahfoud Nahhal. Analysts said the failure of Mr Malek showed a desire for change. *Reuters*

Rebels fail to take Afghan capital

Kabul — Rebel Taliban guerrillas failed to breach the Afghan capital's defences after five days of exchanging heavy artillery and rocket fire with government troops in the Rishkor hills on Kabul's southern city limits. The rebels want President Burhanuddin Rabbani to resign and turn over the capital to them. *AP*

Germany calls for global landmine ban

Bonn — Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel called for a global ban on anti-personnel mines and said Germany should lead by example by destroying stocks of the "diabolical" weapons. *Reuters*

Speedy trial urged

Harare — Zimbabwe human rights activists called for a speedy trial for veteran opposition leader Ndabaningi Sithole (right), accused by President Robert Mugabe of plotting to assassinate him and to stage a coup. Mr Sithole, 75, president of Zanu-Ndonga party, was arrested at dawn on Saturday. His wife, Vesta, said Mr Mugabe has a personal vendetta against her husband. *Reuters*



Court to decide on quotas for women

Brussels — The European Court of Justice will rule for the first time on Tuesday whether hiring quotas for women violate European Union equal opportunity laws. In a potential landmark decision, the Luxembourg-based court is being asked whether men are being discriminated against by rules designed to boost the number of women in the workplace. *Reuters*

World's oldest woman knew Van Gogh

Arles — Jeanne Calment, who met Vincent Van Gogh is set to become the oldest person who ever lived when she passes the record of a Japanese man. She will be 120 years and 238 days old tomorrow. The "Guinness Book of Records" lists Shigechiyo Izumi of Japan, who died in 1986 aged 120 years and 237 days, as the oldest human whose age has ever been authenticated. Aged 14, she met Van Gogh. She has described him as "ugly as sin ... bad-tempered, a grumbler and smelling of alcohol". *Reuters*

EU deal in danger as Turkish Prime Minister loses vote

HUGH POPE
Istanbul

Turkey's 10-day-old government lost its inaugural vote of confidence in Ankara yesterday, deeply endangering a customs union deal with Europe and giving rise to the biggest challenge yet to Tansu Ciller, the country's first woman prime minister.

The minority government formed exclusively from Mrs

Ciller's conservative True Path Party was defeated by 230 votes to 191.

Mrs Ciller looked crestfallen as her plans foundered on the loss of 13 votes from her party and a hoped-for 10 votes from the former prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, lost when she failed to make a deal with 350,000 striking public sector workers.

But Mrs Ciller, 49, will her trademark "iron smile" back

and bounced up to the rostrum to make sure everyone understood that she was not going to surrender easily to the ad-hoc alliance that ganged up on her.

"Let everybody know that no government can come from this parliament without the True Path Party," said Mrs Ciller, who can count on about 100 votes in parliament. "The democratic solution now is to go quickly to early elections."

Elections are due before next October, but probably would take more than two months to organise. More than four million voters must be added to the rolls inside Turkey after a lowering of the voting age to 18.

Key election laws also have not been passed yet. Mrs Ciller's election plans may be tripped up by those in her own party plotting her downfall. Five senior back-

benchers who lost out on the cabinet seat lottery resigned last week, and another eight voted against her yesterday. Most cunning is Husamettin Cindoruk, 62, a perennial also-ran of Turkish politics who resigned as Speaker on 1 October to be available "to his duty".

According to the most likely scenario, President Suleyman Demirel will end up offering the opportunity to form a govern-

ment to Mr Cindoruk as an "independent". Behind the scenes politicking has mapped out a coalition including the far right, Islamists, the social democrats, the centre-right and the leftists.

Such plans, however, depend on winning over the hard-line nationalists who have been the mainstay of Mrs Ciller's government. Mrs Ciller's supporters stood on their feet to clap and

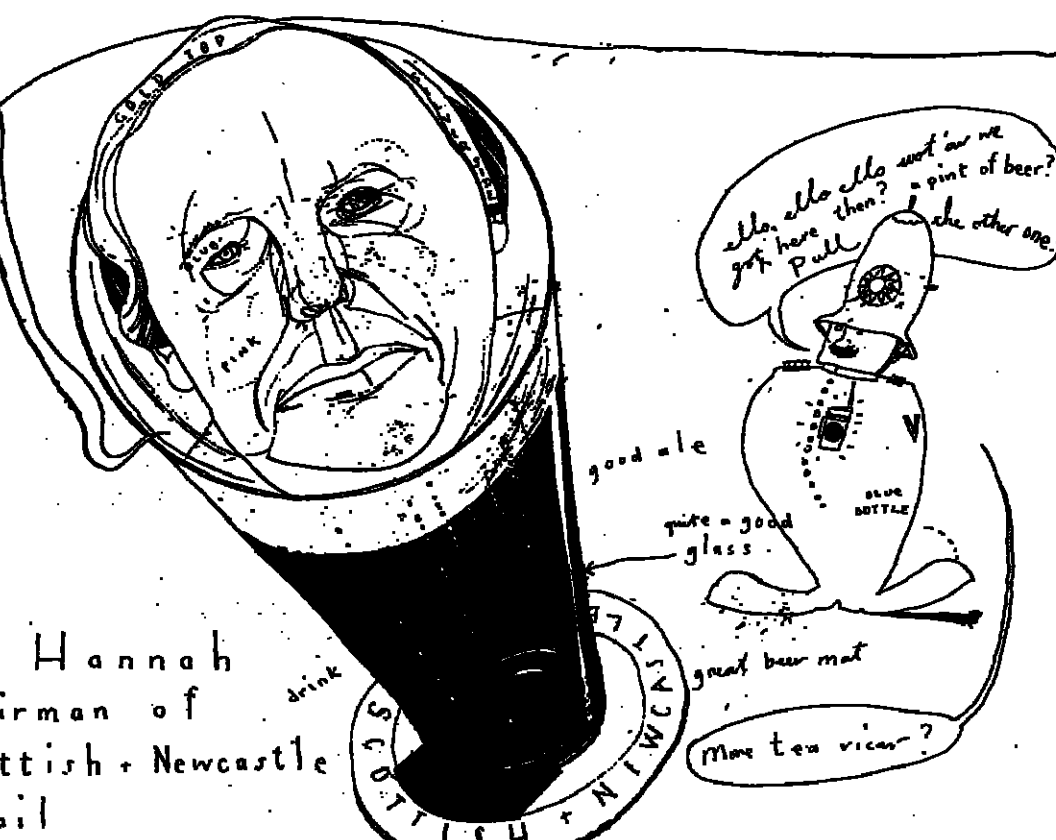
cheer Mrs Ciller. They gave no sign of believing that anybody else would win them more votes in the next elections.

The big losers were the public sector strikers, who staged a noisy rally down Ataturk Boulevard in support of their three-week action in railways, ports and sugar factories. Their leaders' brinkmanship had failed to force Mrs Ciller to abandon spending limits under

an IMF-imposed austerity plan, and now they have no government to negotiate with.

More worrying is that deepening political uncertainty in Turkey is endangering a free trade deal with Europe. The European Parliament, which votes on ratifying customs union on 14 December, has demanded human rights reforms. But Turkey's internal bickering seems likely to hamstring this.

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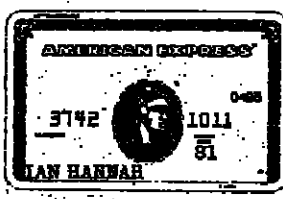


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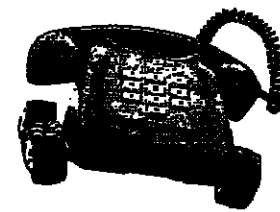
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international

Annika Savill on the fall of the high-flyer tipped to become the country's first woman PM

Sweden's 'A-child' bows out

Stockholm — Mona Sahlin, the woman who was set to become Sweden's youngest and first woman prime minister, will announce today whether she will resign as Deputy Prime Minister and as candidate for the leadership of the Social Democrats.

"If I don't run, I have to know that there is someone else who has the strength," Ms Sahlin said. "I have to force myself to think about who will take over. Otherwise this might end in disaster."

"I am going to write a letter to the party and ask the members to reconsider their choice," she said. "If they can find someone better, they should elect him, or her."

Her comments came as prosecutors appeared likely to announce an official investigation into her repeated misuse of her government credit cards. Ms Sahlin's borrowing of taxpayer funds for private purchases, cash withdrawals, car rentals

and family holidays are part of a mountain of press revelations about her unministerial handling of her private finances. She has been chased by bailiffs over late payments of private credit card debts, a tax debt, a late television licence payment and 19 parking fines.

According to two opinion polls published on Saturday, a majority said Ms Sahlin was not fit to be prime minister. "I'm so sorry about the whole thing, I can hardly speak without crying," she said. "I have never, ever, stolen one single krona."

Mona Sahlin was what was known in the Swedish Labour movement as an "A-Child". Steeped in the Social Democratic institutions that helped make Sweden what it is today, she epitomised the new guard of realists who would take a tired party into the next century.

By her thirties, she had become the party leader's favourite, who could be trusted to dismantle the welfare state

while speaking the language of the common man. That was until last week, when it was disclosed that she also had been up to things that her Prime Minister and mentor, Ingvar Carlsson, now stands accused of being economical with the truth, but also of betraying the trust of Mr Carlsson, who had groomed her to take over when he steps down in March.

Ms Sahlin, 38, insists her transgressions were minor. "If you want a human being who is perfect in all respects, who has never ever paid a bill late, then you shouldn't be talking to me," has been a stock reply.

Already accused of demolishing the welfare state, Ms Sahlin is now seen as lowering moral standards. Mr Carlsson has "full political confidence" in her. But, as one opposition politician put it: "I don't think that Carlsson understands that people like that actually exist. I imagine his first reaction was that all credit-card companies should be banned."

Opposition politicians say Ms Sahlin, widely seen as an intellectually lightweight populist, was a disaster waiting to happen; that her rise was symp-

tomatic of the party's lack of talent. She joined when most gifted young Swedes spurned the grey colossus of Social Democracy in favour of the right or far left.

Her job was to cut into unaffordable welfare structures while meeting the cameras with an unwavering gaze and to keep a pro-European course in a party plagued by Europhobia, less than a year after Sweden's EU entry. Her supposed youth appeal includes almost punk-style hair and a penchant for High Street fashion. Her salary is 660,000 kronor (£60,000) a year.

She lives with her husband and four children in a typical terrace in Stockholm's southern suburbs. Many Swedes do not understand how she could have run low on cash, and suspect bigger skeletons in the financial closet. Speculation now focuses on whether the Co-ordination Minister, Jan Nygren, or the Finance Minister, Goran Persson, will replace her.

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Sahlin: Problems with bills



Moscow rescue: Anti-terrorist commandos storm a South Korean tourist bus in Red Square early yesterday, freeing the remaining four hostages from a total of 29 held at the start of a 10-hour stand-off. The lone hijacker was shot dead. Negotiators had earlier handed over more than \$1m. Photograph: Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP

High Noon for Berlusconi and the magistrates

ANDREW GUMBEL
Rome

There was a touch of *High Noon* in the announcement at the weekend that Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian prime minister, is to stand trial on corruption charges. Starting on 17 January, the Milan criminal court will be the venue for a final showdown pitting the media magnate-turned-politician against the magistrates whose investigations have derailed and possibly wrecked his ambitions to run the country.

To hear Mr Berlusconi talk, he sees himself as a lone sheriff preparing to do battle with the forces of evil — his argument being that the magistrates have a specific political agenda to destroy him. As far as the magistrates are concerned, they are out to establish not only Mr Berlusconi's guilt or innocence, but their credibility as dispassionate upholders of the law.

One thing is clear: the conflict has become so heated that only one side can hope to come out of the showdown alive. The issue has grown far beyond the basic judicial debate of whether Mr Berlusconi colluded in the bribing of a few tax inspectors in exchange for an easy audit of his Fininvest business empire. At stake is the soul of Italy as it struggles to throw off the corrupted politics of the past and create a new, healthy democratic system.

Much has changed since Mr Berlusconi rose to power in the general elections of March 1994. At that time the judiciary were considered heroes for

sweeping away the old system. But then they turned their guns on the prime minister and the atmosphere quickly turned.

Mr Berlusconi accused the magistrates of trying to block progress and turn the clock back to the dark days of the past. The prime minister's opponents, by contrast, saw Mr Berlusconi as the true counter-revolutionary force, a man who had entered politics not to rescue Italy but his own personal interests.

The magistrates won the first round when the announcement of a formal investigation into Mr Berlusconi last November precipitated the collapse of his government. Round two, though, went to Mr Berlusconi: the most popular of the magistrates, Antonio Di Pietro, resigned for reasons yet to be elucidated and, along with his former colleagues, became the object of a sustained smear campaign. The "Clean Hands" anti-corruption drive, meanwhile, lost momentum.

Round three, the announcement of Mr Berlusconi's trial, has been a close and potentially destabilising contest. On the one hand, Mr Di Pietro has made noises about entering politics and accused the former prime minister of riding roughshod over the country's institutional pillars to further his ambitions.

On the other, Mr Berlusconi has launched a sustained attack on the judiciary.

The next few months promise to be ugly as the country splits into opposing camps and the temperature of debate rises.

Pressure on Claes to resign today

SARAH HELM
Brussels

Willy Claes, Nato's secretary-general, will come under pressure to resign today when Nato ambassadors meet in Brussels. They will be assessing the damage caused to the alliance's credibility by the scandal in which Mr Claes is embroiled.

A Belgian parliamentary commission recommended on Saturday that Mr Claes, a government minister before he took over the Nato job, should face trial on corruption charges. On Thursday, the Belgian parliament will vote on whether to accept the commission's advice, thereby putting the chief of the world's most powerful military alliance in the dock.

It is clear that Nato is hoping Mr Claes will do the decent thing and offer his resignation. The longer he hangs on, the more embarrassing the situation becomes, said Brussels officials; this is likely to be spelled out to Mr Claes today.

Successors are being canvassed at Nato headquarters, with Uffe Ellman-Jensen, the former Danish foreign minister, emerging as favourite. Suggestions that Douglas Hurd, the former British foreign secretary, might take the job, are being played down as Mr Hurd probably does not want to leave his new lucrative City post.

The parliamentary commission ruling brought to a head months of speculation over Mr Claes's future. It is alleged that he knew about illegal payments to his Flemish Socialist Party by the Italian defence contractor, Augusta, in 1988, when he was

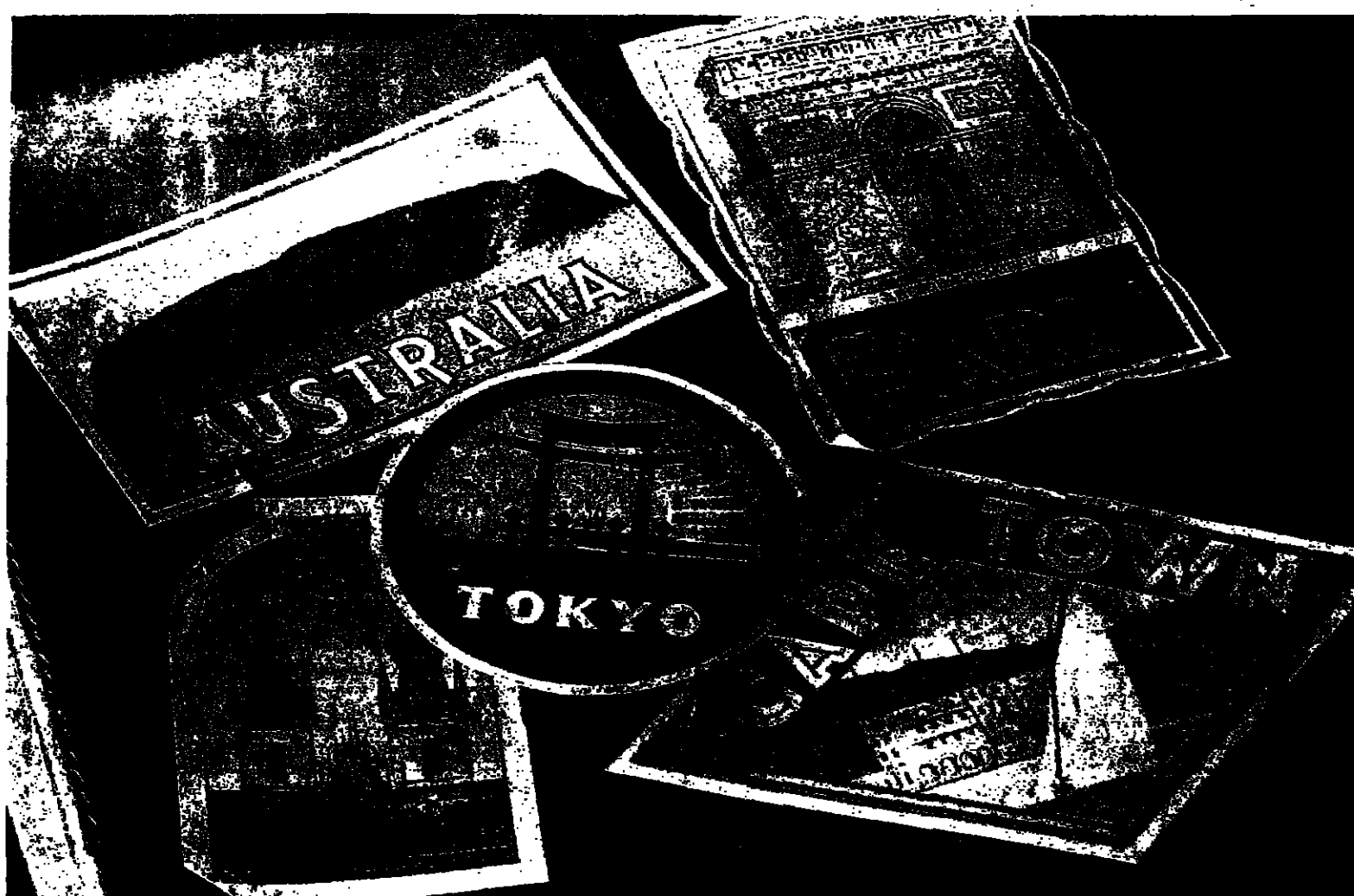
Belgium's economics minister. Mr Claes, known for his blunt-speaking style, has protested his innocence, but on Saturday he showed the first sign that he might have to resign. The Belgian newspaper *Dimanche Matin* yesterday quoted Mr Claes as saying he would not give up his Nato job before the full session of the Belgian parliament decides on Thursday whether to order a trial. He told the paper he was not sure if he could go before parliament to defend his case, as he did before the commission on Friday. "I have not decided yet... I have to think first."

Political figures have increasingly called for Mr Claes to stand down. "Nato is going through a difficult transformation process; this cannot be done with a broken-winged chairman... we cannot afford a Willygate", said Frits Bokstein, leader of the Dutch Liberal Party.

Andrew Marshall, page 21

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Million Man March: Despite his anti-Semitic rants, thousands are expected to join Farrakhan in search of a new Black pride

Protest marks failed dream of integration

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

If Martin Luther King were alive to witness today's "Million Man March", he would weep. The very fact that black men still feel compelled to gather in Washington under the leadership of a man like Louis Farrakhan, who uses hate as his main instrument of political persuasion, reveals how distant King's dream of racial integration remains.

It was King who led the last big civil rights march in Washington in August 1963. Then, 250,000 black and white men and women assembled to hear him deliver his "I have a dream" speech. Almost 100 years after the abolition of slavery, he said: "The Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land."

But he urged black people not to drink from "the cup of bitterness and hatred" in pursuing the dream, the dream that one day his children would "live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."

Thirty-two years on, segregation has gone, blacks occupy positions of office around the land; a black man could be elected president of the United States next year.

Yet, most blacks continue to inhabit islands of poverty in America's vast ocean of material prosperity, and almost all black Americans, even those who have scaled the social ladder and escaped into the middle class, say they continue to feel the sting of racial prejudice.

What would have saddened King most is that black people, especially black men, have turned their resentment and their low self-esteem against each other. One in three black men in their twenties is under some form of police supervision.

Mr Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, conceived the idea of today's march following a vision he says he had in a dream of black men coming together in large numbers

to atone for their own sins and to make a pledge to rediscover the virtues of self-reliance and social responsibility.

The message has a broader appeal than the messenger. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has disowned the march because of Mr Farrakhan's commitment to black separatism - he has called for "a state of our own" - his constant

Landmarks in US black history

1963: Martin Luther King leads 250,000 people to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to demand the end of racial discrimination.
1964: The Civil Rights Act is passed, outlawing discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion and sex.
1965: The Voting Rights Act is passed, guaranteeing the right to vote for all citizens regardless of race.
1968: Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.
1969: The Black Panther Party is founded in Oakland, California.
1971: The Black Power movement gains momentum.
1972: The Black Caucus is formed in the US Congress.
1973: The Black Caucus is elected to the US Congress.
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1994: The Black Caucus is elected to the US Congress.
1995: The Black Caucus is elected to the US Congress.

well as doctors, lawyers and other professionals, will join the throng today on Washington's Mall.

In a television interview yesterday Mr Jackson did not disagree that Mr Farrakhan was an anti-Semite but said the cause of the march was bigger than its leader. "The real problem," he said, "is the disgraceful condition of the African-American community."

Two articles by black columnists in yesterday's *Washington Post* described today's march as an exercise primarily in recapturing the sense of pride and solidarity of the 1960s civil rights movement.

Courtland Milloy wrote that since the call came to participate in the "Million Man March" he had begun to see more black men smiling. "What's up brother?" sure has a nicer ring than the ominous, for-whom-the-bell-tolls, "What you lookin' at?"

Nathan McCall, author of an autobiography called *Makes Me Wanna Holler*, wrote that the march represented "a kind of therapy for black men". He said: "It offers a lot of things that we urgently need - a chance to come together and confront our shortcomings and celebrate our strengths; an opportunity for us to take stock of our current plight and plot a better future course; and, on a very basic level, a healthy way for black men to get a little bit of this tension off our chests."

Healthily therapeutic as the event itself may be, questions linger as to what will happen in the aftermath. Black women, for example, want to know whether many of their men's notoriously sexist attitudes will soften, and whether black fathers might start displaying a little more interest in nurturing their children and less, in some cases, in pursuing lives of crime.

And the broader question that all America will be pondering is whether the march will serve merely as a springboard for Mr Farrakhan's political career, or whether it might revitalise King's dream of transforming "the jangling discords" of America into "a beautiful symphony of brotherhood".



Lost dream: Unlike Martin Luther King, Louis Farrakhan seems intent on using hate as his main political weapon

Violinist driven by anger

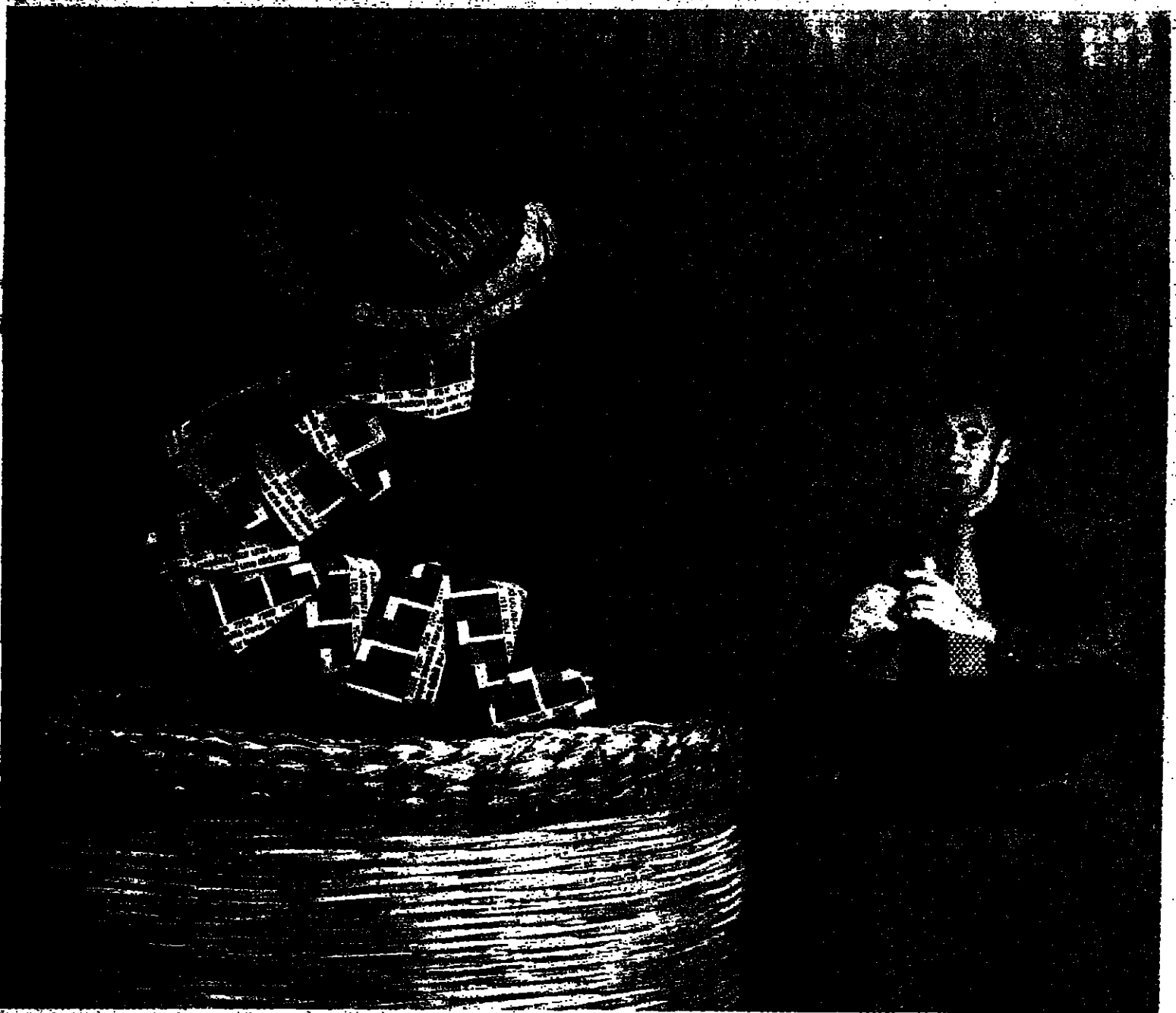
Louis Farrakhan, the incarnation of black American rage, is a lover of music, writes John Carlin.

A nightclub singer known as "Calypso Gene" before his conversion to the Nation of Islam in 1955, he likes to relax by playing the violin at home. Mendelssohn is a favourite.

The public Mr Farrakhan despises European culture and proclaims "African" Egypt to have been the source of mankind's greatest achievements, from art to mathematics. He bases his views on "the white race" on the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, founder of the Nation of Islam, who proclaimed that whites "were not made to love or respect any member of the darker nations".

Mr Farrakhan, who was born in New York in 1934, uses racial anger as an instrument of political mobilisation and as a platform to develop a separatist message of black self-reliance. The level of crime in the black community, the destruction of the black family and the collapse of black education are causes for shame, he argues. Before seeking redress from the white establishment, he says, blacks must put their house in order.

While there is much in what Mr Farrakhan says that makes sense, his anti-Semitism turns many against him and denies him the possibility of emerging as the unifying "voice of the voiceless" that he aspires to be.



Defection threatens grip of Mexico's ruling party

PHIL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

After a series of nerve-jarring earthquakes last week, Mexicans were jolted at the weekend by a major political tremor. Manuel Camacho Solis, former mayor of Mexico City, former presidential candidate, former Chiapas peace negotiator and a stalwart of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), had jumped ship.

Mr Camacho assailed the PRI, which has ruled Mexico since 1929, and implied he would form a new centrist coalition to run for president in 2000 - if the incumbent President Ernesto Zedillo lasts that long. "I am already out of the PRI," Mr Camacho said in a brief statement. "I am in favour of real political change, a new political coalition, to lead us to an advanced democracy."

Political commentators in Mexico City said the defection of Mr Camacho, who only two years ago was widely tipped to be Mexico's next president, was a major blow to a party already

rotting from within and showing signs of crumbling before it reaches 70 years in power.

Mr Camacho is the most prominent PRI member to desert since Cuauhtemoc Cardenas left in 1988 to launch a centre-left coalition which became the Democratic Revolution Party. That defection stunned the nation. Mr Cardenas ran for president and, if not most, Mexicans believe he defeated the PRI candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, only to be robbed of victory by fraud.

Mr Cardenas's popularity has since slipped and Mr Camacho may well believe he can garner much of his support on the left, attract the moderate wing of the rising conservative National Action Party and even create a new party from other PRI dissidents and supporters.

Considered one of Mexico's shrewdest politicians - far more so than Mr Zedillo, a stand-in presidential candidate after the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio in March 1994 - Mr Camacho's timing could be a destructive blow to the PRI.

Mr Camacho's main problems may be his ego and ambition. After Mr Salinas, his old friend and mentor, passed over him and chose Mr Colosio as the PRI presidential candidate in 1993, Mr Camacho broke the party's traditional rule of silence and criticised the decision.

Still, Mr Salinas named him a peace negotiator with Zapatista guerrillas after the January 1994 uprising in the south-eastern state of Chiapas. The timing of the uprising and the assassination of Mr Colosio two months later led to a spate of conspiracy theories, some involving Mr Camacho, the now-disgraced Mr Salinas and/or long-time PRI hardliners.

During the initial Chiapas peace talks, Mr Camacho was receiving far more publicity than Mr Zedillo, then the presidential candidate. Possibly fearing some kind of coup against his candidacy, Mr Zedillo criticised Mr Camacho for his closeness with the Zapatista leader. An angry Mr Camacho quit as peace negotiator and laid low until this weekend.

Quebec breakaway hopes rise

HUGH WINSOR
Ottawa

For the first time since the campaign for Quebec sovereignty began in August, the separatist coalition appears to be gaining momentum. The upturn follows the campaigners' decision to play down plans to break away from Canada.

Two polls released at the weekend show the "Yes" side in the 30 October referendum had gained two or three percentage points over the past week, narrowing the federalist side's lead to less than five points. An average of the most recent polls gives the "Yes" side approximately 48 per cent of decided voters to the "No" side's 52 per cent. Because of the margin of error within the polls and an uncertainty about how to al-

locate the undecided voters, the numbers mean the two sides could actually be tied with two more weeks to go.

The turnaround in the polls follows a decision within the separatist coalition to replace the Quebec Premier, Jacques Parizeau, as the head of "Yes" campaign by the more moderate and more charismatic Lucien Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Quebecois, which forms the official opposition party in the Ottawa parliament.

Mr Parizeau has always been a hardline separatist but he was forced earlier this year by Mr Bouchard and Mario Dumoulin, leader of the Parti Action Democratique, the other members of the sovereignty coalition, to modify his proposal for an independent Quebec.

The referendum question

asks Quebecers to promote sovereignty followed by a formal offer of economic and political association with Canada. But Mr Parizeau lacked credibility trying to sell this option.

The federal government has indicated it might not accept the results because it did not clearly ask Quebecers if they wanted a separate country and polls indicated that 30 per cent of the electorate believe that Quebec would still send MPs to Ottawa, have Canadian passports and use the Canadian dollar.

The public focus on the Quebec question was diverted temporarily at the weekend as the New Democratic Party, the centre-left party affiliated with the Canadian labour movement, choose a new leader, Alexa McDonough, 51, a former social worker.

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international

Israel goes on offensive after six soldiers die

ERIC SILVER
Jerusalem

Israel launched an intensive search-and-destroy operation in south Lebanon yesterday after the Shia Hizbollah militia killed six Israeli infantrymen and seriously wounded a seventh in an ambush in Israel's self-proclaimed South Lebanon security zone.

The escalation in this mini-war of attrition across Israel's last remaining "hot" frontier came as Israel tried to defuse Palestinian resentment at its wily implementation of the latest peace accord by advancing its evacuation of the seven biggest West Bank Arab towns.

The Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, announced after meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, Yasser Arafat, on the edge of the Gaza Strip that Israeli troops would pull out of Jenin, the first and most northerly of the towns, on 25 October - three weeks earlier than planned.

Israel now aims to hand over six of the towns by the end of

the year. Bethlehem, Mr Peres promised, would be under Palestinian control in time for Christmas - the first time it will not be under Israeli occupation since 1967. Elections to an 82-member Palestinian legislative council are now due to take place by 22 January - before Israel completes its redeployment in Hebron, the seventh and most volatile of the towns, where 450 Jews live amid 100,000 Palestinians. Israeli forces will retain responsibility for the settlers' security.

Yesterday's ambush near the village of Aishiyeh followed a similar attack last Thursday, which killed three soldiers. A total of 22 Israelis have now lost their lives in this fighting since the beginning of the year.

A massive bomb went off under the first of two armoured personnel carriers patrolling in the zone's eastern sector. Five members of the Golan infantry brigade were killed on the spot. A sixth died later of his wounds. A Hizbollah leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, boasted afterwards that his men were in

the advanced stages of a holy war against the Jewish state.

The Israeli Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, told reporters last night: "The Israel Defence Forces will hit Hizbollah wherever and whenever it feels it is right and it can be done. In the long war against Hizbollah, we have no limitations on our activities. Our units have been operating throughout the day in the area of the attacks. We shall continue these operations for some days."

General Shahak denied Lebanese reports that Israel was pouring heavy weapons into south Lebanon, as it did after a wave of attacks two years ago. For the most part, he said, Israel was still honouring the undertaking it gave then not to bomb Lebanese villages.

But the Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, cancelled all his engagements yesterday to consult his security advisers and has summoned an emergency Cabinet meeting tomorrow after the Jewish festival of Succot. All his options remain open.



Watching eyes: An Iraqi woman casts her vote in front of a portrait of Saddam Hussein at a polling station in Baghdad yesterday. Photograph: Eric F. Mart/AP

Iraqis vote under Saddam's gaze

PATRICK COCKBURN
Kirkuk, Iraq

Thirteen pictures of Saddam Hussein, dressed as an Arab sheikh, a baggy-trousered Kurd and a white-suited businessman, stared down on the 7,000 voters of the Arafat district of Kirkuk as they cast their ballots yesterday in the local primary

school. A 14th picture of the Iraqi leader stood on the ballot box itself, into which voters pushed slips of paper on which they had ticked the "yes" or "no" box in answer to the question "Do you agree that Saddam Hussein should be the president of the Republic of Iraq?"

The sayings of the Iraqi leader adorned the walls of the school gymnasium. Mahmoud Faisi al-Haza, a teacher of English for 15 years, pointed to a slogan which read: "Tell the truth without flattery."

Saddam has an authoritarian state devoted such resources to the trappings of democracy. By yesterday evening 8 million Iraqis should have gone to their local polling station and cast a

vote endorsing Saddam Hussein for another seven years. "Two or three hours after the polls close we shall phone the results to Baghdad," said Salem Mahmud Kebabchi, one of the electoral officials in Kirkuk.

The real aim behind the referendum is clear enough. "Two months ago Uday Hussein, President Saddam's eldest son, opened fire with his sub-machine gun at a party in Baghdad, wounding his uncle, Walid, and forcing his military officer brothers-in-law, Hussein Kamel and Saddam Kamel, to flee to Jordan with their wives, the President's eldest daughters."

"People held private parties throughout Baghdad because they believed the regime was

wobbling," said an Iraqi. The point of the referendum yesterday was to demonstrate that they were wrong.

In Kirkuk, a city of 400,000 three hours drive north-east of Baghdad, there is a slight undercurrent of tension in the air. During the 1991 uprising Kurdish forces briefly captured it, only to be driven out by the Iraqi army a few weeks later. Many of the Kurds in Kirkuk left and still have not returned.

There are few signs of the fighting visible today. Asked who were the majority in the city, Mr Kebabchi at first said "Arabs". But, added after consultation with other officials: "It does not matter if people are Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans or

Christians because all are Iraqis under the leadership of Saddam Hussein."

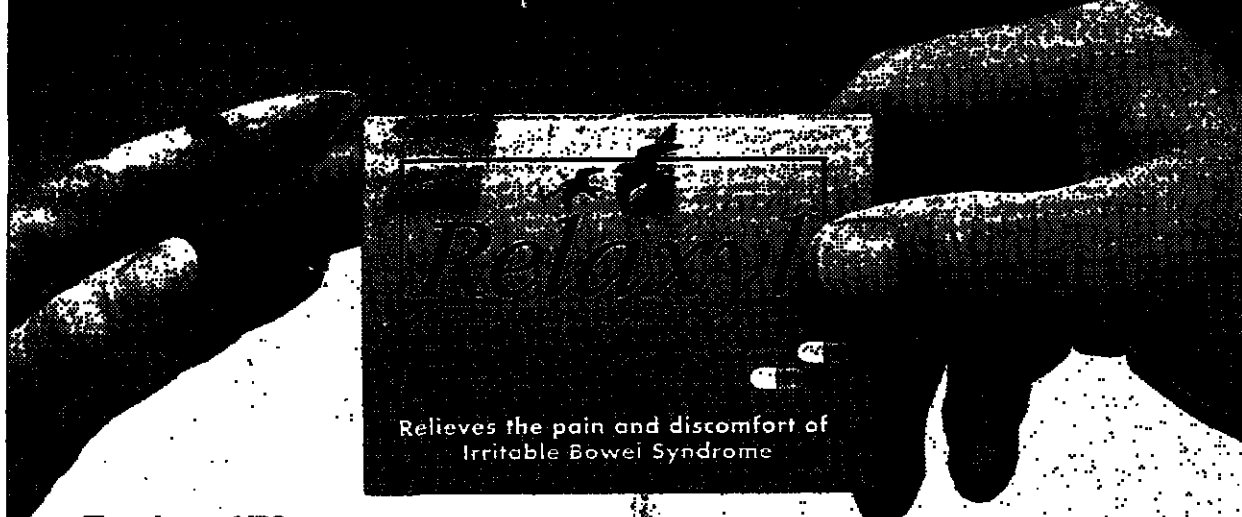
As the place where oil was first discovered in Iraq in 1927, Kirkuk is also the centre of the northern oil fields, of which the Kurds claim they have been deprived by systematic Arabisation of the province.

In Kirkuk, the personality cult of Saddam is even more overwhelming than in Baghdad. In the Arafat Primary School, for instance, there is a board, on which schoolgirls have written love-letters and made birthday cards for the president. It faces a large mural of an Iraqi soldier beneath another quoting the leader: "Victory is sweet."

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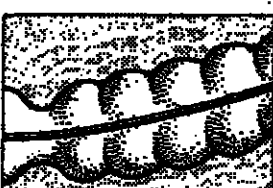
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Ibo warrior who made his peace

Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu, who visits Britain this week, is the man who led secessionist Biafra to war and disaster 28 years ago. To some Nigerians - and particularly the Ibo - he is a courageous and heroic figure. To others he is a self-seeking opportunist who squandered hundreds of thousands of innocent lives, then sold out to the very people he had fought.

Almost a million people died in Biafra's three-year struggle for independence from Nigeria, which ended 25 years ago, a conflict described by the Red Cross as "one of the major human disasters of this century".

Chief Ojukwu (aka "Emeka") was 34 and the military governor of the federal republic's Eastern Region when, in May 1967, he proclaimed its independence from Nigeria. The move followed the region's steadily deteriorating relations with the government of Lieutenant Colonel Yakubu Gowon, which refused to take action after northerners massacred thousands of Ibos who had settled in the Northern Region.

Today, aged 61, Chief Ojukwu is "a free and ordinary citizen of Nigeria". He divides his time between Lagos (the commercial capital), Abuja (the federal capital) and Enugu (the erstwhile Biafran capital).

"History has not fled me," he said before his departure for



Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu

London. "I'm held in high respect and consulted on many subjects, not just by my own people but also by the government. I have cordial relations with General Abacha and many others in the military."

It is hard to believe that General Ojukwu, who in the late Sixties fought to resist the forces of another military dictator, and Chief Ojukwu, the placatory patriarch, are one person. But the former freedom fighter is committed to working with the Abacha regime in the context of a united Nigeria.

"There are many who want to fan the embers of ethnic discord," said Chief Ojukwu in the patrician tones he acquired at Oxford. "But the Ibo people want a system which embraces all Nigerians."

Chief Ojukwu was a member of the government-sponsored Biafran Red Cross which saved thousands of lives before his flight to the United Kingdom. On that day, General Abacha, in power for nearly two years, announced it would be at least another three years before Nigeria would be returned to democracy and civilian rule.

"I do not support the military government as such," said Chief Ojukwu. "but I cannot wish away the fact that it is in power. I believe we must try to ease the military out but there must be no risk of bloodshed."

His aversion to bloodshed is understandable. The civil war, which broke out in July 1967 with the invasion of the Eastern Region by government troops, was particularly vicious, fuelled by imported modern weaponry. Outnumbered by more than four to one, the Biafran army was doomed. As federal forces advanced, millions of Ibo fled into the bush where they were cut off from supplies by a naval blockade. By October 1968, the Red Cross estimated 10,000 Biafrans, mostly children, were daily dying from starvation.

Despite the fact that Britain supported and armed the central government forces, Chief Ojukwu likes the country. He regularly travels to Britain and is sometimes accompanied by his wife, who needs medical treatment in London. He also travels worldwide, at the invitation of British governments. "Biafra is very much alive," he said. "It is not so much a territory, as a state of mind."

Chief Ojukwu is active in the Nigerian People's Movement, a political association founded earlier this year to promote national dialogue. With the lifting of remaining restrictions on political activity scheduled for this year, he believes the movement can play a role in shaping the country's future. He also has his eye on the 1998 elections, though to what extent he takes account of his political marginalisation is unclear.

"If I could run for president that would be wonderful," he said. "If I do decide to contest the elections, I'd join a political party, obviously one which would ensure the Ibo are not cheated of their rights under the federal structure."

Chief Ojukwu takes a keen interest in tennis, rugby, chess and classical music. A Sibelius fan, he chose "Finlandia" as Biafra's national anthem.

DAVID ORR

Filipina maid's family thanks victim's son

MICHAEL GEORGY
Reuters

Al-Ain - The family of Sarah Balaban, the 16-year-old Filipina maid condemned to death in the United Arab Emirates for killing her employer, yesterday thanked the family of the man she killed for sparing their daughter from execution.

"We want to convey our sincerest gratitude to the family," Sarah's mother, Bai, said in the house in this oasis town where her daughter stabbed Almas

Mohammad al-Baloushi to death last year. "We will never forget in what you have done," the maid's father, Karim, told the dead man's eldest son, Faraj. "I want to convey that we are grateful for your decision."

The families sipped tea together during a half-hour meeting. Obeid Baloushi, a son of the dead man, said later: "Anything the government wants I will accept. I can't do otherwise. They told us to forgive. We can't say no."

The Baloushi family dropped

their demand that the death sentence, imposed four weeks ago, be carried out.

They relented on Saturday in return for \$41,000 blood money after the intervention of Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President of the UAE. Under Islamic law, the family of a murder victim can accept compensation instead of execution of the killer.

Sarah Balaban was condemned to death at a retrial for the murder of Baloushi last year. At her first trial, she was sen-

tenced to seven years, but Sheikh Zaid ordered a retrial. Sarah argued she acted in self-defence during a rape when she stabbed Baloushi 34 times.

But in the retrial, she was convicted of premeditated murder rather than manslaughter and sentenced to die.

The court also overturned the earlier verdict that she had been raped. What happens next was not clear. Her appeal against the death sentence has been adjourned until 30 October.

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الرجل

A political vision on the road to Blackpool

John Major's belief that Britain should become the 'enterprise centre of Europe' could be effective, unifying and distinctive

Politicians launch and relaunch their political visions so often that it can be hard to tell the difference between a statement that seriously defines an effective national mission and a bland slogan. Often the politicians themselves do not appear to know which they are offering, because there is a constant temptation to take a slogan and dress it up as a philosophy.

But in the case of John Major's new vision for Britain as the "enterprise centre of Europe", it is the reverse deception which holds. It looks as though he has presented us with a statement of the bleeding obvious in asserting what it is he

wants for the country (after all, you are unlikely to hear Tony Blair arguing that we should be on the enterprise periphery of Europe). But, in fact, Mr Major has actually outlined a political creed that could be effective, unifying and distinctive.

So what does it mean to relaunch Britain as the enterprise centre of Europe?

Of course, it means making Britain the European home for international business. That will clearly define our relationship with the United States and the Far East. As Mr Major was speaking on Friday, the Korean company Samsung was entertaining the Queen in

Middlesbrough, where she was launching a new factory.

This is exactly the kind of thing the Prime Minister has in mind. At the same time, of course, it defines our relationship with the rest of Europe: as a matter of logic, we have to be in Europe in order to be in the centre of it; as a matter of practicality, we must be in it if we want the Samplings to continue to park themselves here.

Enterprise Britain also means making Britain the centre of business and commercial services in Europe. For example, probably more symbolic of our national comparative advantage than the new Samsung plant on Tesside was the announcement, on Friday, that the company is relocating its European headquarters from Frankfurt to London - where accountants, lawyers, advisers, telecommunications providers, software writers and financiers are to be found in relative abundance.

Given the natural advantage of language, London must rank as the most attractive city in Europe for firms to place their management function. Serving those headquarters is work we like doing and work we do well.

Another element of the grand design of making Britain an enterprise centre means taking the country a little way down the road towards the more aggressive capitalism of Hong Kong and the United States. That means smaller government, lower taxes and probably less welfare. It also means doing our best to promote free trade - in Europe and now, according to Malcolm Rifkind, across the Atlantic.

Finally, making Britain an enterprise centre means making Britain entrepreneurial and promoting the wealth creators - by abolishing taxes such as capital gains and inheritance tax that stifle enterprise, abolishing red tape, and removing the hand of bureaucratic control (in the form of both local education and health authorities) from our public services.

Much of it sounds rather attractive. Certainly, as a guiding objective it is far more appealing to liberal-minded folk than any of the competing visions for the soul of the Conservative Party. It is distinct - it is not something that everybody could wholeheartedly support, so it distinguishes the party from the others. It is unifying - in that it has one central idea which acts as a vehicle for policies in a whole raft of areas. And it is meaty - there are practical proposals that follow from it.

Moreover, as a political relaunch it also succeeds in giving a fresh face to Conservative policies without actually reversing them. From the abolition of exchange controls, to the (embarrassing) repackaging of the Department of Trade and Industry as the Department of Enterprise, the Tories have always aimed to make Britain a business-friendly nation. No one can accuse them of contriving a new conviction for themselves.

So, you have heard the speech,

you think you like the slogan... now, what about the manifesto? Just how does Mr Major or, indeed, anyone else actually make Britain the enterprise centre of Europe? This, I fear, may not be so easy.

The reason why not all countries have already transformed themselves into what Mr Major wants to turn us into is that, in practice, many of the policy elements of the programme are deeply unattractive in the execution, or limited in their effects.

Take first the idea that we should be the nation of inward investment. This is a very Michael Heseltine view of the enterprise mission. But much

kind of investment we attract is hardly the kind that relies on paying wages of less than £4 an hour. Indeed, foreign companies in the UK pay far higher wages, on average, than UK employers.

One of the great contributions of foreign settlement here - like Nissan in Sunderland - has been to demonstrate to British employers - such as Rover - that treating staff as commodities is a poor way of motivating them. Paying poverty wages and putting workers in unsafe conditions are not in the style of large, profitable international companies. They are far more prevalent in small, unprofitable local companies.

If Mr Major's caricature of Heseltine economics can offer only limited advances for our nation, then what about the other element of the grand design - that we should be the business services capital of Europe? One should not overstate the gains to be made in this direction. And one should not underestimate the political challenges in pursuing it.

The ideas that must be championed to keep Britain in the centre of things would not naturally fall on to the agenda of a Conservative Party conference. They include containing improvements to public transport, shifting the burden of tax from business to individuals, the freer movement of people across borders and, above all, a clear commitment to stay right in the heart of Europe. Michael Howard would not be so concerned with endlessly drafting new criminal justice bills; he would use his authority in the Home Office to shorten the disgraceful and time-wasting queues at Heathrow immigration control - queues which make it less attractive to land here than it ought to be.

As a country, we should not be considering imposing fines on employers who hire foreigners, nor should we be in the business of fining international broadcasters (as we did MTV recently) for breaching domestic television regulations. We should be making ourselves hospitable - acting as a salesman rather than a regulator.

There is no strong lobby in the Conservative Party for these kinds of policies - and for several of them there is a strong lobby against. Indeed, it is possible that Labour would find it easier to champion the liberal internationalism that underlies them than the Conservatives.

How about that goal of making Britain a little more like Hong Kong? It is this that John Redwood has in mind when he talks about Enterprise Britain. The problem with this route is that there is simply no appetite among the British public, or among the Conservative Party, for such a route to be followed to its logical end. Removing income support and the health service are simply not on the agenda. If anything, Hong Kong is more likely to move in our direction, now it has achieved a high level of per capita GDP, rather than the reverse.

Certainly, there is a consensus in the Conservative Party that we can move in the direction of deregulation and individualisation - but not

to a degree that will fundamentally alter the structure of the economy.

So, while Enterprise Britain might be a great concept and while it might pass the important tests of a successful mission statement, Mr Major will still have his work cut out designing the programme of government that would follow from it. He may well be distracted by the temptations of populism - fundamentally inconsistent with Enterprise Britain - on the way. In practice, what he will achieve for the economy, at best, is a modest set of measures that enhance Britain's natural position as a global, outward-looking nation and slightly enhance the GDP.

Politically, however, the prize could be greater. In a year in which the banter of "fat cat" debate has led the Government into a surprising and extreme form of defensiveness, the public could again be made to see the sense of Conservative pro-business policies. Certainly, the Tories can now argue, the policies may make for some podgy felines - but all in a good cause.

If they can, then it may be Labour which finds itself as the party in the greatest need of a positive economic creed.

Evian Davies is a BBC economics correspondent.

EVAN DAVIES

Most politicians take a slogan and call it philosophy: John Major has done the opposite

of the high-profile new investment that has arrived of late has been induced to settle here by the largesse of the tax-payer. The subsidy offered to firms such as Ford and Siemens is probably the only form of welfare hand-out to foreigners the Conservative Party still supports. In any event, it hardly resonates with the bulk of what the Tories regard as free-market values.

There is another problem with inward investment. There simply is not enough of it to build a prosperous and successful life for everybody, and there never will be. In 1993-94, for example, 404 foreign companies decided to invest in operations here. Government figures suggest they created 96,000 jobs. But in any one year, something like 9 per cent of UK jobs turn over - are created and destroyed. So, while 96,000 sounds a lot, it is only a small proportion of the two and half million generated each year - for every £1 they invest in us, we invest about £15 ourselves.

In any case, the contribution by foreigners to Britain's capital stock is not great enough to offset the relative lack of investment that has characterised our economy since the war. Enterprise, our European partners know, like charity, starts at home.

Even if we did strive to be the developed world's biggest net importer of capital, it is still not clear how you actually go about achieving that. The Government is fond of saying that Japanese and Korean investors are keen to invest in the UK because we have opted out of Brussels regulation and do not have a minimum wage. But, in fact, the

Diary

RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS

The What-is-the-World-Coming-to? Department this week contains gloomy reading from the London Library's Annual Report about thieving members (and unprecedented security arrangements), but there is some reassuring news that England is still England.

"The Library's memory is long," records the Librarian, "but not so long as to have kept it in mind that a volume of Lord Albesbury's Memoirs of Rockingham and his Contemporaries, long since replaced, was still in orbit. Shortly after publication in 1852, it had been taken out by a nobleman. Last summer, during a shelf-check of a country house library in Yorkshire, it came to light and some 140 years later the borrower's descendants returned it to St James's Square with due apologies."

"Have you seen it before?" asked the tenant of my affections last Wednesday, bouncing excitedly at having unexpectedly secured us tickets for the English National Opera's *Carmen*. Slightly abashed, I admitted that the nearest I'd got had been the movie version of Oscar Hammerstein's all-black *Carmen Jones*, in which the love-crazed, tragic Don Jose - played by Harry Belafonte - was transmogrified into a GI.

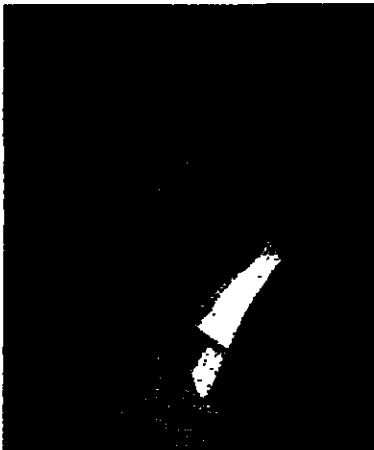
"Now none of your hoity-toitiness," I warned. "*Carmen Jones* was wonderful. I still remember it vividly." So I was a bit upset when I looked it up in my guide to Hollywood musicals

and saw the film described as a "torrid musical melodrama" full of "two-dimensional stereotypes... always at odds with the glorious music." However, I was only 10 when I saw it, so perhaps I can be forgiven such a lapse of taste.

The ENO *Carmen* was glorious, although Don Jose was small and perfectly formed rather than hunkish, and I kept expecting the mid-nineteenth century Spaniards to break into such Hammerstein lyrics as "Beat Out Dat Rhythm on a Drum". It was in the middle of the night that it suddenly came to me that the time is ripe for a remake of *Carmen Jones* and that CJ Simpson is available.

A transatlantic mole faxed me an invitation issued by the Oxford Society of Washington ("This outpost of Oxford University in the nation's capital") to a sherry reception and afternoon tea in honour of the "most brilliant and courageous Irish historian of his generation" - my friend Roy Foster, Professor of Irish History at Oxford - at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel next Saturday. The charge for the sherry reception and afternoon tea is \$25.50 per person, which includes a sherry and mineral water bar and a beautiful and delicious three-course (peated and served) "Afternoon Tea Meal", during which "Oxonians can expect a memorable visit and

speech". I served my Oxbridge time in Cambridge, where the dons were certainly no strangers to gluttony, but even at the sybaritic Peterhouse, where Michael Portillo acquired his winning ways, they did not go in for sherry and three-course teas at 2.30pm.



Hungry, but not that hungry

I know that Hampstead is a foreign country and they do things differently there, but because it's in London and a handful of my best friends live there I forget its essential otherness. Yesterday morning, recollecting (in whatever is the hangover equivalent of tranquility) the argument at a dinner there between me and my Gucci-socialist host, I recalled the conversation with my Hampstead friends Jill and Lewis which best sums up the place:

"Why, oh why, do you live in W35 or wherever it is?" asked Lewis one day. "Come and live near us."

"I don't want to," I whined. "I like living among real people."

"Perhaps, darling," snapped Jill, who is a licensed Hampstead bolshevik, "when Ruth comes out of her house in the morning she doesn't necessarily want to bump into three psychoanalysts and a lady novelist."

Alan Howarth has been

inspirational. George Hammer provided the clerihew:

Alan Howarth
New Labour woweth
In the home of the Bard of Avon
His choice is craven

And here are two shots at what Mike Bradshaw describes as a "pterodactyl". First Sebastian Robinson:

Sputtering feebly, the
Stratford Conservatives
Learned that their Member had
Shown them the door:
"Tells all the Sundays quite
Undiplomatically -
Treads on our toes while he's
Crossing the Floor."

And then Mike's sombre warning:

Conservative Chairman
Smiling malevolence
Now the majority's
Fallen to five,
Exceedingly doubtful
Stratford chameleon
Crossing the Commons can
Make it alive.

Now for some of your suggestions for the missing lines in the Enrolimerick which begins "Una belle ragazza di Gela/Had a torrid affair with a sailor" and ends "Wie war denn dass fur ein Fehler?"

"Mais son cher maitrot/Only sucked her big toe" (John Baillie);
"All of 69 ways/Mais sans capotes anglaises" (Andrew Hayes of the European Public Health Alliance - "in the interests of positive health protection");

"Nació su bebé/A Tonlon, sur le quai," (Geoffrey Linton);
"C'est le rouls, mam'selle, du bâteau." "No un rollo, señor, de lindero?" (Tony Scofield).

I drew the names out of my Orangeman's bowl and Tony won, so he gets the prize. Henceforward, when sending me verse written in foreign tongues, please, please send translations. It is a bit much when a linguistic moron is expected to understand even Finnish.

**ALMOST 50%* OF YOU
THINK YOU'VE GOT
MORTGAGE PROTECTION.
ONLY 20% OF YOU ARE RIGHT.**

A recent MORI* poll has shown that a lot of people think they've got mortgage protection, when in fact they haven't.

What they probably have got is a life assurance policy - which doesn't protect against accident, sickness or unemployment.

In addition to this, 70% of people aren't entitled to income support on a mortgage. And for those who are, on 1st October 1995 the Government cut back the mortgage allowance payable to them.

So if you already have a mortgage and fall ill or are made redundant, you'll receive nothing for the first two months, and then only 50% of the interest payments for the next four months.

Worse still, if you took out your mortgage after the 1st October 1995, you won't receive a single penny in support for the first nine months.

But it's not all doom and gloom.

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Carmen Jones: why not Simpson?

INDEPENDENT

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Boxing: the final blow?

On Friday night a man was pummeled to death watched by hundreds of people, including rows of black-tie diners and crowds of chanting drunkards. As he fell to the ground, a riot broke out, and several members of the audience smeared their chests with the dead man's blood.

With concern visibly mounting with each new death or maiming, it is difficult to believe that boxing can survive unscathed. The outright banning of boxing would be hard to justify in the face of the enthusiasm of the boxers and their audiences, but those who support the sport should think carefully about the price of their continuing fun.

The dead man, James Murray, was a consenting adult. He knew he faced pain and injury, and risked brain damage or death, but he walked into a boxing ring nevertheless. High risk in itself is not enough to justify banning someone from doing something - so long as they are aware of exactly what the dangers are. But boxing is not just one more dangerous sport like mountaineering and motor racing, where the aim is to achieve something in spite of the risk of injury. In boxing, injury itself is the objective. The very aim of each move is to harm - to punch a man so hard that he can't stand up again.

Boxing's enthusiastic audience - though distressed by the weekend's events - will defend the sport to the hilt. It is a highly skilled encounter of attack, feint and counter-attack, spotting the opponent's

weaknesses and disguising your own. It is a test of immense bravery and of physical endurance under round after round of beatings.

But no matter how much you admire the skill of the fighters, or how much you romanticise the story of each fight, the fact remains that these are two men trying to inflict serious injuries upon each other, and far too often succeeding. The question for boxing's advocates is whether the positive side of the sport justifies the negative, or whether elements of the game should be sacrificed to make it safer.

There are several possibilities. The art and skill of the ducking and diving would be preserved in a three- or five-round fight. Even a 10-round fight, rather than the present 12 rounds, would reduce the chance that exhausted boxers will receive damaging blows to the brain. It is true that these kinds of reforms would remove the test of endurance involved in fighting to the bitter end - but that may be a necessary sacrifice. Another possible change would be to outlaw punches to the head. Again, this would alter the sport in a fairly profound way.

As yet there is little sign of waning support for boxing. Yet the outcry is growing tangibly with each new tragedy. After watching 11 championship fights in the past 10 years end in serious brain damage or death, it must be time to change the nature of the sport - what would be lost is not worth people dying for.

Marching up to the White House

Survey the current state of race relations in the United States and you could be forgiven for fearing the worst: A Republican Congress is driving through its "Contract With America", whose cuts in welfare and social programmes read like a contract on poor, black America. Affirmative Action is under challenge. The acquittal of OJ Simpson has appalled whites and exasperated blacks, and spurred talk of a "white backlash". And now what may prove to be the biggest demonstration in the history of black America will be led by a man who has sneered at women and Catholics, described Jews as bloodsuckers and who is regarded by most whites (and many blacks) as the incarnation of racial intolerance and evil. And so is the Big Bang at hand? Not a bit of it. Paradoxically, Louis Farrakhan's "Million Man March" in Washington today may be just what America's anguished and guilt-ridden debate on race requires.

For one thing, the radical Nation of Islam movement, which he leads, is barely 50,000 strong, hardly a threat to American civilisation. Indisputably, Mr Farrakhan has a record of anti-Semitism, and certainly he sees the march as a means of increasing his stature in black politics. More important, however, he is a black "nationalist", dismayed at the condition of black society and convinced that since a white government cannot or will not help, blacks themselves must put their house in order. Hence the march's goal of black male "atonement" as a first step to rescuing their community from self-destruction by broken families, crime, drugs and illegitimacy.

It is also an historical watershed. Thirty-two years ago, Martin Luther

King led his own march on Washington, to proclaim his dream of an integrated, colourblind society, in which blacks and whites lived in equality and harmony. Alas, a dream it has remained. Blacks have reached a dead end in the national political system, taken for granted by Democrats and ignored by a Republican Party rooted in the white suburbs. That, and not a special fondness for Mr Farrakhan, is why such disparate elements as the Black Congressional Caucus, several big city black mayors and the Rev Jackson himself, back the march. Things, they insist, must change. And change they may, though probably not as they might have foreseen.

Colin Powell will not be at the March. But if anyone has a chance of transforming the psychology of black America, it is he. We do not know if the retired general will run for president, though the prospect grows steadily more likely. But if he does, as a Republican, he would be the favourite to win. Yes, he is a "whites' black" who arouses no fears and embodies the racial reconciliation which most Americans yearn for, and who is less popular among blacks than the white but Democratic Mr Clinton. But polls reveal something else: that a third of blacks would support a Republican for the White House were he General Powell. A black man in the Oval Office, head of state, commander-in-chief of the US armed forces, and supreme symbol of his nation for the entire world: if that comes about, the effect on black America would surely be electrifying. Compared with that, the Million Man March is a sideshow - but a sideshow that stands on its own merits.

ANOTHER VIEW Andrea Stuart

More nightmare than dream

The decision of Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam to hold a rally at Broadwater Farm, north London, is a magnificent piece of showmanship. Ten years after the riots led to the death there of PC Keith Blakelock, and the suspicious convictions that followed, Broadwater Farm remains an emotional flash-point for the black community. Where better to hold a recruitment drive for his movement, which sermonises about black pride while simultaneously demonising the white race?

But then the movement, with its severely suited masculine disciples selling its apocalyptically entitled newspaper, *The Final Call*, has an alluring theatricality. And Mr Farrakhan has generated an international media frenzy with his "Million Man March" on Washington, in which a million Afro-Americans will today demonstrate their political muscle by walking on the nation's capital.

His avowed intention is to show the world "a vastly different picture of the black male" and though he exploits popular memories of the great civil rights marches of the Sixties, the Million Man March is not "the dream" that Martin Luther King envisaged. Mr Farrakhan's order that black women stay at home, and his frequent racist remarks, will mean that instead of a spirit of brotherhood, the march must take place in the sort of atmosphere of hostility that would make Dr King spin in his grave.

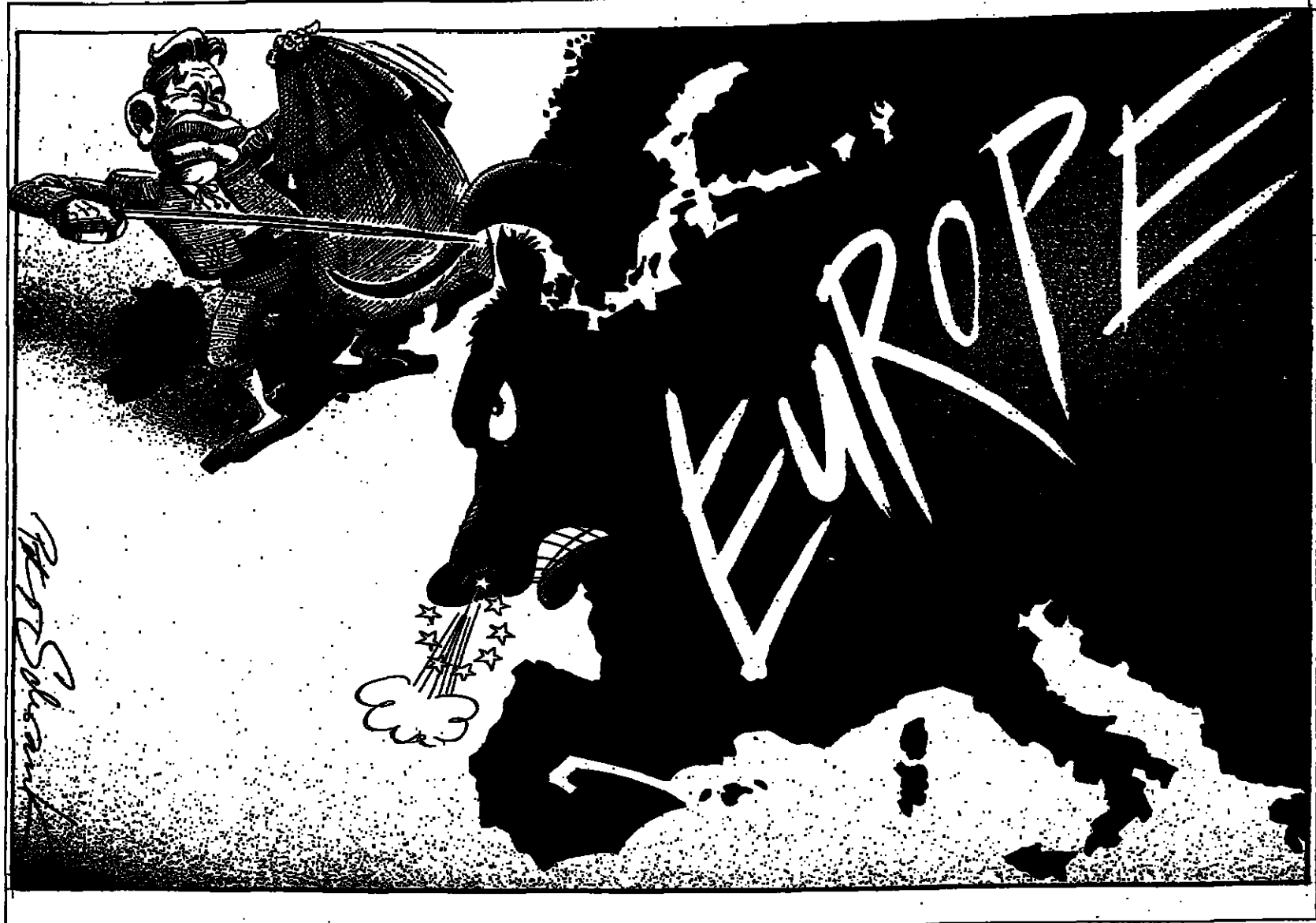
Mr Farrakhan is the most recent in a

long line of legendary black leaders who have preached separatism and conjured up dreams of black independence. Charismatic and clean-cut, he is in many ways the shadow side of General Colin Powell. But while General Powell symbolises the still enduring possibilities of the American Dream, Mr Farrakhan is the product of the nightmarish obverse.

Many black people are profoundly offended by Mr Farrakhan's anti-Semitism and belief in the subservience of women. They are unconvinced about the fantasies he spins about a separate black state. But his rhetoric does at least acknowledge the profound sense of disenfranchisement and disillusion that many blacks feel. Indeed, his message of black self-empowerment and pride have been enormously seductive to many Afro-Americans. And there is no reason to imagine it would be any different in Britain, where a disproportionate number of black men are winding up in prison, on the dole, or in mental institutions.

It is likely that his rally will be a success. It will be hard to resist the enormous hype by proxy that will be generated by the Million Man March. But it will be a success built as much on our failure to provide support for those who are poorly served by our community as much as one built on the often reprehensible message Mr Farrakhan conveys to the world.

Andrea Stuart is a lecturer in cultural studies at Central St Martin's College, London.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lilley's demolition of the asylum process

From Mr David Bull

Sir: The conference season may produce many empty promises, but there is unlikely to be one more hollow than the Social Security Secretary's claim that the UK will continue "to help genuine refugees" ("Lilley to curb benefits for asylum-seekers", 12 October). The measures announced yesterday by Peter Lilley amount to an effective demolition of the asylum process, and therefore an abdication of the Government's responsibilities under international law.

Those fleeing persecution are not, of course, familiar with the complexities of UK immigration law and, accordingly, many have legitimate and wholly understandable reasons for applying for asylum only after entering the country, rather than immediately upon arrival. Having experienced state oppression first hand, and possibly still traumatised as a result, they may be fearful of authority and hopeful of seeking the help and support of friends, relatives and advice agencies before putting their fate in the hands of officials.

Mr Lilley's blanket curb on in-country applicants' access to benefits makes no allowance for this, and therefore constitutes a wholly unjustifiable deterrence to such genuine asylum claims.

The position of those who do apply for asylum immediately on arrival, however, is not much better. It is inevitable that the Home Office will make mistakes when determining asylum claims, and an effective appeals mechanism is essential to the rectification of unjust refusals. Last year, 235 people won their appeal against the refusal of asylum - 10 per cent of all appeals heard.

It is a matter of public disgrace that Home Office ministers should complyantly allow the Social Security Secretary to scapegoat refugees in order to hide the failings and inefficiencies in his own department. Despite huge increases in personnel, the number of cases dealt with by the HIO asylum division has fallen in each of the past two years - from 35,000 in 1992 to 21,000 in 1994 - and delays in reaching initial decisions remain unacceptably long, during which time benefits will now be unavailable to most asylum-seekers.

It is these inefficiencies, and the resultant wastage of public funds, that ministers should be addressing.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BULL
Director
Amnesty International
London, EC1
12 October

From Mr E. P. Mayne

Sir: Peter Lilley went on at length in his Blackpool speech about the abuse of the benefits system by alleged bogus asylum seekers. As an immigration consultant, I have as clients a small number of asylum seekers. Most of them have been waiting a long time for the Home Office to decide on their cases; some of these draw state benefits while the Home Office bureaucrats make up their minds about their future.

I have on my books a couple from a West African state who arrived in England in December 1987 and sought asylum. The wife at the time was pregnant and since they were granted limited leave of entry, they have become the parents of four children, the oldest of which will be eligible for British citizenship in two years' time. To date, the couple haven't even been interviewed.

While I accept that Mr Lilley does have a point, perhaps it might be prudent for him to direct his attacks towards the Home Secretary whose department is primarily responsible for this situation. Yours faithfully,
E. P. MAYNE
GPA Consultancy Services
Citizenship and Immigration Consultants
Guildford, Surrey

CSA performance has improved

From Mr Tony Ward

Sir: Although Polly Toynbee's article ("Why single mothers baffle Mr Lilley", 11 October) raises a number of interesting discussion points, I am disappointed to see that she is recycling the same misinformed comparisons about the amounts of money collected by the Child Support Agency and the "old system", as she describes it.

The agency's performance has improved dramatically since the difficult first year of operation, and over £187m child maintenance was paid in 1994-95 as a direct result of CSA action. Of this, £138m went to parents looking after children.

Our work that year also saved taxpayers some £479m that would otherwise have been paid in

Social Security benefits. For 1995-96, we are on track to achieve the arrangement or collection of £300m in maintenance, and we forecast savings to the taxpayer of some £500m.

We have not abandoned anybody, let alone the difficult cases. To date, we have traced nearly 100,000 absent parents whose whereabouts were previously unknown. We are publicly committed to recommending work before the end of 1995 on cases where we deferred action at the end of last year so that we could effectively tackle those cases where the absent parent is trying to avoid their financial liability. Hardly a fiasco or an organisation on the verge of collapse.

Yours sincerely,
TONY WARD
Director of Operations
Child Support Agency
London, SW1
13 October

Analysis of the pulsar discovery

From Professor A. Hewish, FRs

Sir: Allow me to correct an untrue statement about the pulsar discovery, ascribed to John Maddox, and quoted by Paul Valley in his article (News Analysis; "The Nobel art of picking winners", 10 October) on the Nobel awards. He writes "... though Hewish was director of the project, it was a research assistant, Jocelyn Bell, who did the actual work".

The actual work involved a sky survey of scintillating radio galaxies which I conceived and for which I designed and built a new radio telescope especially sensitive to rapid changes of source intensity. Jocelyn ran the survey for her PhD research and reported an unusual source showing strong intensity variations, apparently changing its position by about one degree and sometimes disappearing for several days.

I decided to investigate more closely using a high-speed recorder which Jocelyn operated and recorded the first pulses. I then analysed the pulse phase, which gave more accurate positional data and found that the position was actually constant.

I set up and made the timing measurements which showed the incredible precision of the pulses and I exploited this, via the Doppler effect, to confirm that the signals could not be from intelligent beings on a distant planet - a possibility that could not be ignored. I also organised measurements of the radio spectrum which enabled me to estimate the distance of the source.

There was more to the discovery than is often realised from popular accounts of the work.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY HEWISH
Department of Physics
University of Cambridge
Cambridge
11 October

Lottery link

From Dr Neil Chalmers

Sir: Lord Gower is right to urge the Prime Minister to keep his promise that National Lottery funding will not replace existing government spending (Another View, 11 October). Unfortunately, it is all too likely that this promise will not be kept. Virginia Bottomley may well be opposed to William Waldegrave's idea of lottery-funded endowments for the arts, but she is asking chairmen and directors of national museums and galleries funded by the Department of National Heritage to plan for a 3 per cent cut in grant-in-aid funding in 1997-98.

There has also been a decline in real terms in the grant-in-aid that the National History Museum, among others, has experienced in recent years, and a more immediate cut in the coming financial year is threatened. Given that museums and galleries are vital to one of the few growth areas of Britain, namely leisure and tourism, this policy goes directly against the Government's intention to increase wealth generation and improve the quality of life.

The link between the arrival of the lottery and the decline in government funding seems to me to be inescapable. The lottery is being used to replace government funding by the back door.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL CHALMERS
Director
National History Museum
London, SW7

Unremunerated

From Dr R. Davies

Sir: Nicola Jayne Easton (Letters, 12 October) should be aware that most NHS consultants do contribute much of their work on a pro bono basis, by working in excess of their contracted hours for no additional remuneration. Yours faithfully,
R. DAVIES
Cardiff

New universities underfunded

From Mr David Triesman

Sir: The finding ("Teaching at new universities fails to make the grade", 12 October) that ratings for teaching excellence tend to coincide with research excellence ratings is unsurprising. The ethos of a university largely depends on the interrelation between research and teaching. The traditional universities have, traditionally, been funded to undertake research alongside teaching both undergraduates and postgraduate students. The new universities have not benefited from that tradition to the same degree, despite many important initiatives often supported by the enthusiasm of their staff.

There is much evidence to suggest that the new universities could more successfully contribute to the research and development powerhouse of UK plc, given the appropriate resources.

The special earmarked "development research" fund needs to be enhanced significantly to allow the new universities a fairer share of research resources. The process, however, must involve additional resources and not be part of a robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul, robbing-old-to-pay-new, process. That would be government shooting itself in both feet. It would be absurd to diminish the quality of research in the older universities both because of its intrinsic value and its contribution to teaching excellence.

Research is investment in the nation's future. Good investment pays for itself. Universities, old and new, are starved of resources, which affects not just the develop-

ment of the nation's wealth but also what its people achieve through higher education teaching.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TRIESMAN
General Secretary, Association of University Teachers
London, W11

From Mr Raymond H. Brunsell
Sir: Fran Abrams correctly states "in chemistry, computer science and history, only one department in the entire former polytechnic sector was found to be excellent".

As head of that one department, I am well placed to comment on the assumption that teaching quality is directly related to research rating. High research ratings attract additional funding which enable a higher level of resource to be deployed. It is likely that teaching quality is directly related to total funding rather than research rating.

The recent quality assessment exercise carried out in computer science at Scottish universities concluded that the computer science teaching was underfunded across all Scottish universities. As a result, Scottish universities have been given additional funds. Since only 10 per cent of computer science departments assessed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England were rated excellent, it is apparent that funding for computer science in all institutions needs to be increased.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND H. BRUNSSELL
Dean, School of Computing and Mathematics
University of Teesside
Middlesbrough, Cleveland

Need to speak and write English

From Mr Ian Small

Sir: Gillian Shepherd's "new" initiative to record oral scores at GCSE English is actually nothing new at all ("Shepherd to penalise 'grunting' youngsters", 12 October). Until 1993, GCSE English grades did record both a written and oral component. Then the National Curriculum Council in its wisdom (led, sad to say, by an English specialist) cancelled that information and helpful addition, against the advice of professional English teachers and the Headmasters' Conference who felt that the different qualities of spoken and written English should be properly recognised.

Boys and girls need to be able to use the language effectively in both its written and spoken forms, in order to demonstrate their competence. So we are delighted that Mrs Shepherd is returning to good practice and good sense. With some luck might we soon see the return of a proper valuation of GCSE course work (which diminished on the whim of John Major)? I shall be quite happy to make the case for that either orally or in writing, whichever Mrs Shepherd would prefer.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SMALL
Headmaster
Bootham School
York
12 October

Wartime history of the SAS

From Mr Sydney Hudson

Sir: As a wartime operational member of the organisation on which the SAS was founded - the Special Operations Executive - I read the report of Michael Portillo's speech to the Conservative conference with some amusement ("Portillo whips up nationalist frenzy", 11 October).

In his admiring references to the SAS, Mr Portillo forgot to mention that the SOE was established on the instructions of Winston Churchill with the specified objectives of "setting Europe ablaze".

The task was to be carried out by initiating and supporting the various national resistance groups operating against Nazi occupation and tyranny. It seems strange that the present Secretary of State for Defence appears now to regard the SAS as a symbol of British resistance against the eventuality of Continental aggression.

I would like to add that, in those distant days of the underground struggle, the vision of a Europe united for peace was a tenet of the belief in a better world to come which inspired many resistance fighters. To some, who still survive, this ideal remains very much alive.

Yours sincerely,
SYDNEY HUDSON
Special Forces Club
London, SW1

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comment

Kipling's best with added zest

I was extremely surprised to learn that the favourite poem of the British is Kipling's "If". Actually, I do not believe it is the favourite poem of the British. I think if you took volume of sales rather than a telephone poll as your guide-line, you would find that the poem most often bought by the British is in a greetings card and goes along this sort of line:

*On your very special day,
We wish you all the best.
And if you plan to go away,
Don't forget your vest.*

No one, however, voted for that or anything much like it, and our taste for greeting cards, limericks, bawdy rugby ballads and all the things we really like best was conveniently forgotten. Kipling's "If" was duly voted into first place and the pundits duly and enjoyably mocked the choice.

I did not mock the choice, though. That is because I was trying to think of another version of the message in "If" that I had come across somewhere, and I knew that if only I traced it, important locked areas would be opened up to me.

It took me several days, but finally I cracked it. There is another version of "If" and it goes like this:

*If you can keep your head
While all about you
Are losing theirs,
They probably know
Something you don't know.*

I came across this priceless bit of advice, which seems to me a vast improvement on Kipling, in a book called *The New Official Rules*, a book that I always thought should be world-famous but which never seems to have spread beyond a coterie. It was compiled by Paul Dickson, an American lexicographer who compiles and entertains simultaneously.

Dickson had the simple but rewarding idea of putting together a book which contained all the non-scientific laws known to man, from the Peter Principle to Sod's Law.

Most of these laws get a single book devoted to them, much as Parkinson's Law was expanded to fill a whole book, and Dickson thought it would be nice to fillet them all out, take off the unnecessary garnishes and serve them all in one volume. The result was *The New Official Rules*, and it has been through several editions and revisions since I have known it.

The first edition, as I remember, included a long discussion of Murphy's Law, which is the old one about "If a thing can go wrong, it will go wrong", and all the possible extensions of Murphy's Law. Most of these seemed to be along the lines of predicting that the other traffic lanes on motorways will always go faster than yours, and it is no use

changing lane because now your new lane will go slower; or that whichever queue you join in a bank will go slower than all the other queues. This is no longer true, of course, as the people who run banks have read this book and decided to amalgamate all these queues into one long and slow queue so everyone is now discriminated against.

(This may not be true in New York. I have not been to New York for years, but the last time I was there all the banks had multiple queues and all these queues were slower than any queue anywhere else in the world. It is a total fallacy about the pace of life being faster in New York. The pace of life is actually very slow in New York. It takes ages to get anywhere, find anyone, hail a taxi, get a parking space or be given a restaurant seat and be served. Only in a very slow city like New York would people even think of queuing



MILES KINGTON

up for a restaurant seat. People in New York seem to move fast because they are always trying to catch up, but the pace is actually very slow and that is why people champ and rage and get ulcers and twitch.)

All these rules were good solid stuff, but they were a little predictable, and I am glad to see that most of them have been eliminated in later editions or relegated to the introduction. What has happened is that readers have constantly submitted their own observations to Dickson and gradually the book has become a repository of wisdom covering those areas of life which nothing else covers, not the Bible and not Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Examples? Certainly. Try these:

"A memo is not sent to inform the recipient. It is sent to safeguard the sender."

"Anything designed to do more than one thing does no thing very well."

"The spouse of the chronically ill patient dies first."

"If you don't want your children to hear what you are saying, pretend you are talking to them."

"Getting rid of all your baby clothes and furniture is one of the main causes of pregnancy."

"Paint splashes last longer than the paint job itself."

More of this tomorrow.

The right climate for tax on fuel

Scientific consensus about global warming is growing so why are the politicians unable to act?

At the end of this year an obscure but important body called the Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change will publish a fat report on the science of global warming.

If the IPCC's draft version leaked on to the Internet last month is anything to go by, this United Nations document will show that the scientific consensus is strengthening: pollution is very likely to alter climate over much of the earth's surface in the next century. The scientists are saying that we are probably seeing this already, in the run of exceptionally warm years in the 1980s and 1990s. This year will also turn out to be an unusually hot one, not just in Britain but in terms of average temperatures around the globe.

When the final version of the IPCC science report is released the qualifications will be there. One hundred per cent certainty cannot be provided for systems as complex as the earth's atmosphere, oceans, ice-caps and life, which all interact in shaping the planet's response to humanity's massive intervention.

But even the qualified conclusions will be sufficient to spark an explosion of alarming and vivid headlines. It's a funny business, this global warming. Most of the time the media and society ignore the issue. Every now and then we have big stories warning us that sea levels will rise and tropical plagues spread as temperatures rise. Droughts and floods will become more common. Then, not quite as frequently, we get the big debunking

pieces which tell us that another group of scientists has disproved global warming and it is all a big scare.

So what are we to conclude from all this? And what measures would it be sensible for modern industrial societies to take in the face of continuing uncertainty about a threat that was first recognised almost 100 years ago, when Svén Arrhenius, a Swedish chemist, made the first prediction about man-made global warming?

In 1896 Arrhenius calculated that if the burning of fossil fuels doubled the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, then temperatures would rise by around 5 degrees Centigrade. In the 99 years since then we have frantically burnt coal, oil and gas, and we can be sure that if we go on at present rates the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide will, midway through the next century, reach double pre-industrial levels. We also now know that we are adding several other kinds of "greenhouse gas" to the atmosphere - methane, CFCs - which are even better than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the lower atmosphere.

But although the hundreds of climate scientists who contribute to the IPCC have made much progress in the past decade in understanding what we are doing to the planetary thermostat, they are still at least five years away from giving a precise estimate of how rapidly average global temperatures will rise.

They are fairly certain that Arrhenius's alarming 5 degrees for a



NICHOLAS SCHOON

Every government wants to know which countries will suffer the most damage

doubling of carbon dioxide is a little too high. Their low- to middle-range estimates imply rates of warming and resulting sea level rise that are within the bounds of what advanced industrial societies (but not crowded, poor countries) can easily cope with for the next 50 years - and whoever thinks further ahead than that?

What every government wants to know most of all is how regional climates will change. Which countries will suffer the most damaging changes; which ones might even benefit from benign climate shifts?

The scientists are probably at least 10 years from making good regional predictions. They need computing power much greater than that of the

number-crunching supercomputers they now employ for their simulations of the world's changing atmosphere and oceans.

This is high science, involving dozens of research groups which collaborate and debate. It is not the kind of work that throws out an abrupt consensus, when suddenly everyone can agree that pollution has already caused this much climate change and will go on to do that much more in the next x years. It churns out probabilities, not pat answers.

Those with vested interests watch this unfold, then put their own spin on things. The USA's gigantic fossil fuel industry, along with oil exporters like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, play up the uncertainties. Their lobbyists stoop to suggesting that the scientists exaggerate in order to get their research grants.

Some environmentalists, meanwhile, suggest that every extreme weather incident is a manifestation of man-made climate change - forgetting that at any one time extreme and unusual weather is being experienced somewhere in the world. The nuclear power industry also likes global warming because it generates electricity with far less of the "greenhouse gas" pollution of its fossil fuel rivals.

The media simply wants good, strong stories. So climate change is either very serious, or a scare, or off the agenda.

While the scientists plod ahead in trying to ascertain the threat, the sen-

sible response is not to do nothing, relying on adapting to climate change once it happens. It is to take measures that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels without harming the economy.

These so-called "no regrets" measures are a moral as well as a rational response to the threat, which is why many politicians advocate them. The problem, as ever, is that they tend to pay lip service to them.

Take one example close to home. At a time when the real cost of household energy is falling (gas and electricity bills are coming down) there is an excellent environmental case for placing higher taxes on fossil fuels. That would encourage people to use less of them and curb pollution.

The revenue raised should first be used to make sure those worst affected (the poor and the elderly) can keep warm in winter, by installing better insulation and more efficient heating systems. The second call on this revenue should be to reduce taxes that keep people out of work, such as income tax and employers' National Insurance contributions.

But what do we get? A botched, enormously controversial introduction of VAT on electricity and gas in which no politician seriously advocated the environmental case. The Government introduced it simply because it needed to raise the money, and Labour is hinting at getting rid of it simply to raise votes. And the bigger picture of a planet in real danger is ignored.

Who wants this impossible job?

Any castle is only as strong as its weakest point. Nato, which for 40 years was the West's strategic defence against the Eastern bloc, is uncomfortably aware that as it prepares to launch its biggest-ever operation in Bosnia, its weakest point is right at the top. In the alliance's inner sanctum sits a man who is probably about to be charged with corruption: Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General.

Yet the danger to Nato is not that it will be taken by storm or betrayed from within. It is that it will simply become irrelevant, like the picturesque ruined castles that dot the European landscape.

The row over Mr Claes symbolises the lack of political will that exists at the heart of Nato. If Europe had become the kind of place that no longer needed to have its security

'Willygate' is about to claim Nato's Secretary-General and Andrew Marshall fears replacing him will distract from the real problem facing the awkward alliance



Willy Claes (top), and the favourites to succeed him at Nato, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Douglas Hurd (left)

The row over Mr Claes symbolises the lack of political will at the heart of Nato

firmly underpinned, that would not matter; but with the threat of conflict ever present to the east and south, it is disturbing.

Mr Claes has become a symptom of political decay. For months his alleged involvement in a long-running Belgian scandal concerning the payment of bribes in connection with the purchase of military hardware has been the talk of Brussels. Augusta, the Italian helicopter company, was found to have made payments to Mr Claes's Flemish Socialist Party in return for aircraft orders when he was Belgian economics minister. It has been evident since Mr Claes first admitted that he has known that cash was offered in return for aircraft orders that something had to be done. Yet nobody has lifted a finger. And he will certainly not go on his own.

Now that the cumbersome Belgian legal system appears ready to put the cuffs on Mr Claes and take him down, the alliance's 16 nations will be forced to do something.

They have not acted before because they quite simply lacked the will to confront the many problems that are entailed in finding a new secretary-general.

Mr Claes himself only emerged from a grubby process of trading. He is there mainly because he's Belgian, and John Major would not allow another Belgian, Jean-Luc Dehaene, to hold Europe's other top job, President of the European Commission.

For similar reasons the allies have failed to get to grips with many of the strategic hot potatoes that have been dumped in Nato's lap. Nobody

would pretend that the break-up of the Soviet Union could be handled easily, quickly or without argument in an alliance that is predicated on the existence of a hostile superpower on the doorstep. But the slow pace of change, the lack of imagination, the frequent reversals and side-stepping have become increasingly embarrassing.

A historical opportunity has been handed to those who make security policy in Europe and they have

reacted with indecision and short-sightedness. For this, of course, everybody blames everybody else.

In Europe, the Americans are held up as the primary culprit. Washington has failed to exercise political leadership: it is charged with having vacillated between a policy of "Russia first" and Nato expansion, and then overplayed its hand in the Balkans. There is an element of truth in this. Bill Clinton's foreign policy has had more than a touch of

Abstract Expressionism to it, with coherence established only in the past six months.

But the real problem lies in the European side of the alliance. The weak, divided and myopic political leadership that reigns in every European country is virtually incapable of coming to sound, long-term rational decisions. Exacerbated by economic weakness, riven by partisan political struggles and undermined by corruption scandals, European governments have

floundered in the post-Cold War years. Mr Claes is fast becoming as potent a symbol of this political ineptitude as it is possible to be.

Nato was founded, and has lasted for 40 years, on the basis of a political equation that is paraphrased thus: to keep the Americans in, the Russians and the Germans in check. This is self-evidently no longer a sustainable set of arguments.

Europe needs a serious debate about its security. If the Americans are to be kept in, then on what terms? How important is the US nuclear umbrella and, indeed, how important are nuclear weapons?

If the Russians are to be kept out, then how is the gap-to be bridged between the West and Moscow? What will happen to states such as Ukraine? If the Germans are to be kept in check

Mr Claes is merely the wrong man in the wrong place at the wrong time

within new structures of European Union integration, how will the EU and Nato inter-relate? Can this be made to work while both organisations enlarge?

None of these questions has an easy answer, but there is precious little effort to find responses. Instead, the fate of Willy Claes and the choice of his successor are likely to occupy the time of people who would be better employed doing other things. The former Danish foreign minister, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, is said to be the favourite. A reluctant Douglas Hurd is also said to have the backing of a number of European leaders, although his hands-off approach to the war in former Yugoslavia means he is unlikely to find favour in Washington.

As they seek a new name to pull out of the hat, European governments will inevitably confront the old and tired debate between Europeans and Atlantists. It will all prove a diversion from the more profound existential questions that Nato ought to be facing up to. And the omens - Michael Portillo's Blackpool speech and a resurgent Gaullism in Paris - do not promise a quick or easy answer.

None of this is the fault of Mr Claes. Innocent or guilty of the charges of corruption, he is merely the wrong man in the wrong place at the wrong time. But every day that he remains in office is a day wasted. The quicker he goes and a successor is found, the quicker that Nato can move to deal with more important issues.

Generation Why



by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

BAUME & MERCIER
GENEVE

Stainless steel, quartz movement,
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Color industry: Gloomy



Pioneering: Edith Pargeter, alias Ellis Peters, creator of Brother Cadfael - Photograph: Rex Features

Pioneering: Edith Pargeter, alias Ellis Peters, creator of Brother Cadfael - Photograph: Rex Features

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business 23

INDEPENDENT • Monday 16 October 1995

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2548 fax 0171-293 2098

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

MARKET SUMMARY									
STOCK MARKETS									
FT-SE 100									
Index	Close	Week's change	Change (%)	12 Mth High	12 Mth Low	Yield (%)			
FTSE 100	3588.0	+41.5	+1.2	3570.8	2943.4	4.0			
FTSE 250	3845.3	-32.7	-0.9	3891.3	3300.9	3.5			
FTSE 350	1776.0	+12.6	+0.7	1778.3	1477.0	3.8			
FT Small Cap	1964.7	-11.9	-0.6	1983.1	1678.6	3.3			
FT All-Share	1754.2	+10.8	+0.6	1757.6	1465.2	3.8			
New York	4793.8	+31.1	+0.7	4801.8	3674.8	2.4			
Tokyo	17880.8	-825.5	-4.6	19092.4	14485.4	0.8			
Hong Kong	9883.8	+9.9	+0.1	9940.0	6867.9	3.2			
Frankfurt	2196.8	+25.4	+1.2	2317.0	1911.0	1.9			
Paris	1917.0	+7.5	+0.4	2017.3	1721.8	3.8			
Milan	9545.0	-208.0	-2.1	10911.0	8265.0	2.1			

MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Rises - Top 5									
Index	Price	Change	Week's change	Change (%)	Index	Price	Change	Week's change	Change (%)
TSB Group	370	95	35.0		Traveller House	27	4	12.9	
St. Charles	518	65.5	14.5		General Cable	186.5	20.5	9.9	
Ry. of Scl.	322	58	12.5		BPE Industries	283	24	7.8	
Cadbury	547	50	10.1		Haworth	279	20	6.7	
Lloyds Bank	774	69	9.8		Nyxex Cable	128.5	8.5	6.3	

INTEREST RATES									
UK Interest rates									
3 month	6.50				12 month	7.50			
6 month	6.75				18 month	7.75			
9 month	6.75				24 month	7.75			
12 month	6.75				36 month	7.75			
18 month	6.75				48 month	7.75			
24 month	6.75				60 month	7.75			
36 month	6.75				72 month	7.75			
48 month	6.75				84 month	7.75			
60 month	6.75				96 month	7.75			
72 month	6.75				108 month	7.75			
84 month	6.75				120 month	7.75			
96 month	6.75				132 month	7.75			
108 month	6.75				144 month	7.75			
120 month	6.75				156 month	7.75			
132 month	6.75				168 month	7.75			
144 month	6.75				180 month	7.75			
156 month	6.75				192 month	7.75			
168 month	6.75				204 month	7.75			
180 month	6.75				216 month	7.75			
192 month	6.75				228 month	7.75			
204 month	6.75				240 month	7.75			
216 month	6.75				252 month	7.75			
228 month	6.75				264 month	7.75			
240 month	6.75				276 month	7.75			
252 month	6.75				288 month	7.75			
264 month	6.75				300 month	7.75			
276 month	6.75				312 month	7.75			
288 month	6.75				324 month	7.75			
300 month	6.75				336 month	7.75			
312 month	6.75				348 month	7.75			
324 month	6.75				360 month	7.75			
336 month	6.75				372 month	7.75			
348 month	6.75				384 month	7.75			
360 month	6.75				396 month	7.75			
372 month	6.75				408 month	7.75			
384 month	6.75				420 month	7.75			
396 month	6.75				432 month	7.75			
408 month	6.75				444 month	7.75			
420 month	6.75				456 month	7.75			
432 month	6.75				468 month	7.75			
444 month	6.75				480 month	7.75			
456 month	6.75				492 month	7.75			
468 month	6.75				504 month	7.75			
480 month	6.75				516 month	7.75			
492 month	6.75				528 month	7.75			
504 month	6.75				540 month	7.75			
516 month	6.75				552 month	7.75			
528 month	6.75				564 month	7.75			
540 month	6.75				576 month	7.75			
552 month	6.75				588 month	7.75			
564 month	6.75				600 month	7.75			
576 month	6.75				612 month	7.75			
588 month	6.75				624 month	7.75			
600 month	6.75				636 month	7.75			
612 month	6.75				648 month	7.75			
624 month	6.75				660 month	7.75			
636 month	6.75				672 month	7.75			
648 month	6.75				684 month	7.75			
660 month	6.75				696 month	7.75			
672 month	6.75				708 month	7.75			
684 month	6.75				720 month	7.75			
696 month	6.75				732 month	7.75			
708 month	6.75				744 month	7.75			
720 month	6.75				756 month	7.75			
732 month	6.75				768 month	7.75			
744 month	6.75				780 month	7.75			
756 month	6.75				792 month	7.75			
768 month	6.75				804 month	7.75			
780 month	6.75				816 month	7.75			
792 month	6.75				828 month	7.75			
804 month	6.75				840 month	7.75			
816 month	6.75				852 month	7.75			
828 month	6.75				864 month	7.75			
840 month	6.75				876 month	7.75			
852 month	6.75				888 month	7.75			
864 month	6.75				900 month	7.75			
876 month	6.75				912 month	7.75			
888 month	6.75				924 month	7.75			
900 month	6.75				936 month	7.75			
912 month	6.75				948 month	7.75			
924 month	6.75				960 month	7.75			
936 month	6.75				972 month	7.75			
948 month	6.75				984 month	7.75			
960 month	6.75				996 month	7.75			
972 month	6.75				1008 month	7.75			
984 month	6.75				1020 month	7.75			
996 month	6.75				1032 month	7.75			
1008 month	6.75				1044 month	7.75			
1020 month	6.75				1056 month	7.75			
1032 month	6.75				1068 month	7.75			
1044 month	6.75				1080 month	7.75			
1056 month	6.75				1092 month	7.75			
1068 month	6.75				1104 month	7.75			
1080 month	6.75				1116 month	7.75			
1092 month	6.75				1128 month	7.75			
1104 month	6.75				1140 month	7.75			
1116 month	6.75				1152 month	7.75			
1128 month	6.75				1164 month	7.75			
1140 month	6.75				1176 month	7.75			
1152 month	6.75				1188 month	7.75			
1164 month	6.75				1200 month	7.75			
1176 month	6.75				1212 month	7.75			
1188 month	6.75				1224 month	7.75			
1200 month	6.75				1236 month	7.75			
1212 month	6.75				1248 month	7.75			
1224 month	6.75				1260 month	7.75			
1236 month	6.75				1272 month	7.75			
1248 month	6.75				1284 month	7.75			
1260 month	6.75				1296 month	7.75			
1272 month	6.75				1308 month	7.75			
1284 month	6.75				1320 month	7.75			
1296 month	6.75				1332 month	7.75			
1308 month	6.75				1344 month	7.75			
1320 month	6.75				1356 month	7.75			
1332 month	6.75				1368 month	7.75			
1344 month	6.75				1380 month	7.75			
1356 month	6.75				1392 month	7.75			
1368 month	6.75				1404 month	7.75			
1380 month	6.75				1416 month	7.75			
1392 month	6.75				1428 month	7.75			
1404 month	6.75				1440 month	7.75			
1416 month	6.75				1452 month	7.75			
1428 month	6.75				1464 month	7.75			
1440 month	6.75				1476 month	7.75			
1452 month	6.75				1488 month	7.75			
1464 month	6.75				1500 month	7.75			
1476 month	6.75				1512 month	7.75			
1488 month	6.75				1524 month	7.75			
1500 month	6.75				1536 month	7.75			
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1584 month	6.75				1620 month	7.75			
1596 month	6.75				1632 month	7.75			
1608 month	6.75				1644 month	7.75			
1620 month	6.75				1656 month	7.75			
1632 month	6.75				1668 month	7.75			
1644 month	6.75				1680 month	7.75			
1656 month	6.75				1692 month	7.75			
1668 month	6.75				1704 month	7.75			
1680 month	6.75				1716 month	7.75			

TODAY

Companies
Highland Distilleries, the group best known for the Famous Grouse brand of Scotch, is expected to report a modest improvement in profits to £44m for the year to August. The rise should compare favourably with recent figures from rivals such as Guinness, which makes the Teachers brand, and Burns Stewart. However Highland still faces tough conditions in its key UK market. NatWest Securities is forecasting profits to rise by around 10 per cent.

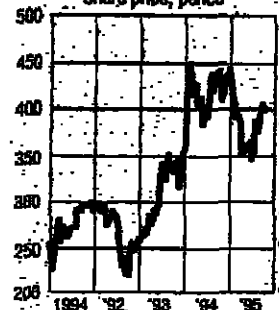
New management unveils its first set of results at Waste Management International, with third-quarter figures expected to be flat at £43m. The new team was appointed during July so it is too soon to expect a re-structuring. However analysts are not ruling out a shake-up with the full year figures in February. WMI has a 20 per cent stake in Wessex Water, where trading has been

strong, and the UK waste business is also performing well. The French and Italian markets, however, remain in the doldrums.

Finals: Gartmore Smaller Companies
Interims: Beradin Holdings, Farnell Electronics, Hewitt Group, Olives Property, Padang Senang, Singapore Para Rubber.

Annual meetings: Lintx Printing, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, U.S. Smaller Co
EGMs: None scheduled

Highland Distilleries



TOMORROW

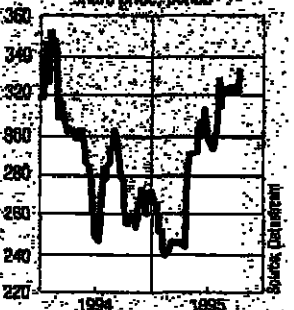
Companies
Finals: Paterson Zochonis, River & Merc Extra, Hong Kong Investments
Interims: El Oro Mining, Exploration Co, Henry Boot & Sons, Newport Holdings, The Rack

Annual meetings: Egalet Investment Trust, Finelast Group, Finsbury Underwriting, Select Industries, Surrey Free Inns, Welsh Industrial Trust
EGMs: Eidos, Select Industries
Economics

Following the signals at the Conservative Party conference that a tax-cutting Budget lies ahead, September's public sector borrowing requirement will be scrutinised even more minutely than usual. The market is expecting a deficit of £4bn. The trajectory of tax

revenues that have fallen well short of Treasury projections will be of particular interest. In the US, industrial production is expected to remain unchanged on the month. The Japanese trade balance in September is forecast to be \$10.5bn. An unexpected rise would hurt the yen.

DFS Furniture



WEDNESDAY

Companies
DFS Furniture is expected to buck the gloomy retail trend with an upbeat set of figures for the year to July. Profits are forecast to rise from £22.75m to £26m. Though analysts doubt the company will have maintained the 10 per cent like-for-like sales increase achieved in the first half, they are still looking for good progress. A statement on returning some money to shareholders – mentioned as a possibility at the half year stage – is also expected.

The City will be looking for an update on progress at the core WH Smith chain at the company's annual meeting. The Project Enliven initiative was launched earlier this year to help restore the fortunes of the ailing high street chain.

Finals: Bridport-Gundry Interims: Berry Birch & Noble, Card Clear, Envel National Inv Co, Havelock Europa, Kymmene Corp, Renown Inc, Town Centre Securities, BDA Holdings
Annual meetings: GoldFields of South Africa, WH Smith, Tottenham Hotspur
EGMs: Sage Group
Economics

A bumper day for the UK economy. Following the retail price shock last week, retail sales will be closely watched to see if consumers are resisting attempts by retailers to push up margins. The market view is that there will be sales growth of 0.6 per cent. The other main focus of attention will be the unemployment and earnings figures. Although unemployment fell by 18,000 in August the average fall in re-

cent months has been under a fifth of the rate at the end of 1995. The market is expecting a fall of 5,000. Underlying earnings, which fell in July, are expected to remain unchanged in August at 3.25 per cent. The US trade balance will be a matter of concern. Hopes of a decline were dashed last month with another record deficit. The market is expecting a deficit of \$11bn in August.

THURSDAY

Companies
Finals: M J Gleeson, Wescol Group
Interims: Airflow Streamline, Aminex, Ferguson Intl Holdings, Ramco Energy
Annual meetings: Elbief, Gold Greenlees, Haynes Publishing, Headway
EGMs: None scheduled
Economics

Provisional M4 figures will be closely watched by the markets following the expression of concern by the Chancellor and the Governor about recent strong growth. The market is

FRIDAY

Companies
Finals: Ramus Holdings Interims: Alida Holdings, Audax Properties, Richards Securities Trust of Scotland, Sundard Data Systems (Q), Value & Income Trust, Warnford Investments
Annual meetings: Armour Trust, Peter Black Holdings
EGMs: Premier Land Economics

The balance of non-EU trade is expected to fall slightly to a deficit of £900m following the particularly high deficit of £996m in August. Watch to see if there is any recovery in exports to the US, which were depressed by the rapid slowdown in the second quarter.

BANKS, MERCHANT

Company	Price	Change
Barclays Bank	125.00	+0.25
Bank of Scotland	110.00	+0.50
Bank of Ireland	105.00	+0.25
Bank of London	115.00	+0.25
Bank of Montreal	100.00	+0.25
Bank of New York	110.00	+0.25
Bank of Paris	105.00	+0.25
Bank of Spain	100.00	+0.25
Bank of Tokyo	110.00	+0.25
Bank of West	105.00	+0.25
Bank of America	115.00	+0.25
Bank of China	100.00	+0.25
Bank of India	105.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	110.00	+0.25
Bank of Korea	100.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	105.00	+0.25
Bank of South Africa	110.00	+0.25
Bank of Sweden	105.00	+0.25
Bank of Switzerland	110.00	+0.25
Bank of Taiwan	100.00	+0.25
Bank of Thailand	105.00	+0.25
Bank of Vietnam	100.00	+0.25
Bank of Yugoslavia	105.00	+0.25

BANKS, RETAIL

Company	Price	Change
Bank of America	115.00	+0.25
Bank of China	100.00	+0.25
Bank of India	105.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	110.00	+0.25
Bank of Korea	100.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	105.00	+0.25
Bank of South Africa	110.00	+0.25
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Bank of Taiwan	100.00	+0.25
Bank of Thailand	105.00	+0.25
Bank of Vietnam	100.00	+0.25
Bank of Yugoslavia	105.00	+0.25

BANKS, RETAIL

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Bank of America	115.00	+0.25
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Bank of Vietnam	100.00	+0.25
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BANKS, RETAIL

0.1	Graintry	131	+0.1	5.8	1.81	1041
0.1	Hendrick-Past	132	+0.1	1.8		
0.1	Home Depot	204	-0.1	4.6		1528
0.0	Home Depot App	204	-0.1	5.1	10.9	1092
0.0	MTL Inc	272	-0.2	2.2	15.1	4081
0.7	Monroe-Sm	288	-0.2	2.2	10.0	3338
0.7	Monroe-Sm	288	-0.2	2.4	14.2	3274
0.4	Motors	600	+0.2	0.8		
0.4	NEC	820	-0.2	0.8		3487
0.2	Oakland Inst	484	-0.1	1.5	19.5	3576
0.2	Pack	111	-0.1	3.9	17.8	3822
0.2	Philco Eln	229	-0.1	11.7	16.7	3683
0.2	Philco	221	-0.1	2.8		3661
0.1	Pico A	111	-0.1	2.8		3718
0.1	Pico A	111	-0.1	2.4	23.3	3715
0.7	Praxair	46	-0.1			3717
0.2	Pain	588	-0.1	0.8	24.8	4881
0.0	Royal	263	-0.1	2.4	20.3	3753



GAVYN DAVIES

"One minute the Government appears in the guise of Thatcherite cutter of spending, the next as trusty defender of public services. All politicians try to play both sides of this card, but it is mostly governments that get blamed when expectations are dashed."

Clarke gambles on another year of restraint

Emerging from Blackpool with tax cuts on their minds, the Conservatives are heading directly into severe political trouble over public spending. They have pledged to cut the real level of spending again next year, but have no intention of actually reducing the scope of the public sector. As a result, they will raise public expectations and then get blamed for the shoddy provision of services that will inevitably follow.

Most commentators have not noticed this risk, either because they have assumed (wrongly) that there is plenty of fat in current spending plans, or because they believe the Chancellor is setting tough spending targets with the deliberate intention of missing them in the election run-up.

The overshoot in the Budget deficit relative to targets this year is seen by cynics as the start of a premeditated strategy of luring voters' pockets. This would encompass tax cuts, followed by uncontrolled increases in public spending, followed by more one-off gains for voters as regulators force cuts in fuel prices, as building societies merge, and as the Norwich Union goes public.

What could be more familiar than a gigantic pre-election bribe, with the mess being cleared up after polling day?

It is clear that some elements of this are very much in the game plan. The Chancellor obviously intends to cut taxes in each of the next two Budgets, and probably to promise a phased programme of further reductions after the election as well. That was presumably the inference of his remark at conference that not everything in the tax area could be accomplished "in one go".

Furthermore, Mr Clarke is hoping to trump Labour's windfall tax on the utilities by "persuading" regulators to ram through additional price cuts for the consumer. Not only would this reduce inflation and boost

real incomes, it would also demote the utilities of the surplus cash that Labour is planning to raid in government. Far too tempting an opportunity for Mr Clarke to spurn, even though he may have to lean rather hard on the regulators to cajole them into co-operating.

But what about public spending? The Prime Minister said last week that the search for more spending cuts would be "ruthless". Yet by the end of the week he was adding 5,000 policemen to the beat, reiterating his commitment to increase real health spending each year, and telling the Chief Secretary not to "mess with" Gillian Shepherd's education programme.

One minute the Government appears in the guise of Thatcherite spending-cutter, the next it is the trusty defender of the public services. Of course, all politicians try to play both sides of this particular card, but it is the fate of governments to get most of the blame when the electorate's expectations are dashed.

The Government's present approach to the control of public spending is tactical rather than strategic - cheese-paring without making any attempt to reduce the public's demand for cheese.

As Norman Lamont pointed out in Blackpool, there is a refusal to contemplate eliminating the public sector from large parts of pension provision, health and education, thus making room for significant cuts in taxation.

Instead, the Government's approach is reminiscent of a company that has decided to curtail costs without reducing the scale of its businesses. Typically, the first wave of cuts works fine, since obvious waste can be eliminated and the bottom 10 per cent of the workforce can be fired without any immediate loss of business.

But a second wave, if still needed, is rather

more difficult. Important capital investment gets postponed, and efficient staff are asked to accept sub-par pay increases, which leave them worse off than they would be in the open market. Many of them leave. All this impairs the long-term performance of the company, and revenue starts to fall. In the third wave, the firm either retrenches to its most profitable core of businesses, or it fails.

The Government is acting like just such a company about to embark on its second wave of cuts. The first wave started in the crucial year of 1993, when the Government realised that public sector borrowing was running out of control, partly because of a 5.7 per cent rise in the real level of spending the previous year.

But the introduction of an improved method of controlling spending (based on the "control total", which excluded spending on cyclical social security and debt interest) succeeded in holding the real growth in spending down to 1.2 per cent and 1.0 per

cent in the following two years. This year, the result is so far unknown, but the real growth in spending should come in at around zero.

The Chancellor has claimed that 1993 should be seen as a watershed for public spending control, and three successive years of real growth at 1 per cent or less certainly looks impressive. But in fact there was a similar period of low growth in real public spending from 1985-88, when the economy was at roughly the same stage of the business cycle, so it is not yet clear whether we are seeing anything genuinely new.

There have admittedly been some genuine policy changes that have yielded savings in the social security budget - involving, for example, incapacity benefit and the jobseekers' allowance.

Furthermore, almost every important local authority in the country now has its spending forcibly capped by the Government, or is "voluntarily" complying with provisional caps set by Whitehall each year. (How

many voters realise, incidentally, that Whitehall has now virtually removed the power to tax and spend from the local authorities, leaving them as rump bodies empowered only to administer a fixed budget?) These changes may continue to depress spending for some years.

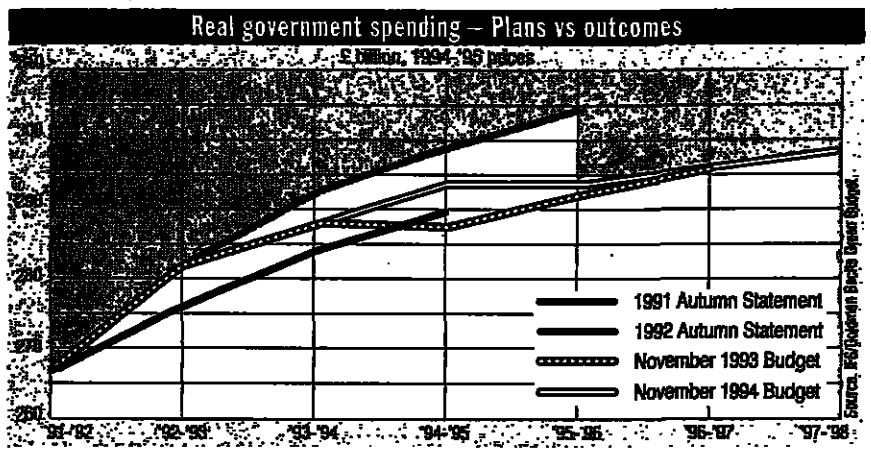
But in the main, the last three years have seen a series of one-off expedients that are most unlikely to work indefinitely. Like the company in trouble, government departments have postponed or cancelled capital projects, and have been required to absorb the full cost of any increase in public sector pay through efficiency savings elsewhere.

This has been temporarily successful, but three major problems now loom. The public sector pay bill cannot be permanently frozen with inflation beginning to rise. Plans for health spending, which allow for real growth of almost zero, look unrealistically tight.

And education spending will surely accelerate above plans, given the growth of 1.1 per cent in pupil numbers next year and the need for an upward adjustment in teachers' pay.

The Chancellor is not allowing for any of these pressures in his plans for next year. Far from it, another year of approximately zero growth in real public spending is being pencilled into the Budget arithmetic. Perhaps the Chancellor, as accused, really does intend to exceed these tough targets when the time comes. But this is a risky strategy.

Under the new control system, it will be very obvious if targets are being missed, and the eyes of the financial markets will be firmly trained on the Treasury's behaviour. More likely, Mr Clarke has made the political judgment that he can get away with another year of tough restraint on spending. A hundred or so vulnerable Conservative MPs had better hope that he is right.



Fresh from organising the 'orderly revival' of the battered dollar, the US deputy treasury secretary is ready for the bigger questions

Power, intellect and the management of markets

If there is a single person who can take the lion's share of the credit for the revival of the dollar from its trough last spring it is Lawrence Summers, America's deputy treasury secretary.

In the spring, after the dollar had lost around a fifth of its value against the yen, Mr Summers convinced the Clinton administration that a stronger currency would be in the national interest. He was the architect of the statement by the seven leading industrial countries in April that they sought an "orderly reversal" of the dollar's fall. It worked.

"People have counted the dollar out many times before and been proven wrong," says Mr Summers. The 40-year-old deputy secretary has become one of the most influential figures in world economic policymaking. He brings to this practical role one of the finest economic minds of his generation.

The combination of power and intellect is almost guaranteed to make him unpopular in some circles. Mr Summers' rapid upward flight has run into several patches of turbulence, which critics say have been exacerbated by his arrogance.

At least he has good grounds for his confidence. Mr Summers became, at 28, the youngest tenured professor in Harvard University's history. The child of two economists, two of his uncles - Paul Samuelson and Kenneth Arrow - won Nobel prizes in economics.

For Britons, he has become a key figure because of his indirect influence on Labour Party policy. Ed Balls, adviser to the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, was a student of Mr Summers and has imported

wholesale his approach to economics. It is not too fanciful to see Mr Summers as the unlikely apostle of New Labour's conversion to markets.

Drinking his signature can of Diet Coke in a grand office in the imposing US Treasury Department, he accepts that the power of financial markets causes some uneasiness. "In democracies, too often fear does the work of reason," he says. But he adds: "Capital markets punish but they also reward. It is Luddite to suggest that by slowing flows of capital you would let governments renege their influence."

Like most other policymakers

where Mr Summers' certainty that he is right is reported to have rubbed both US and Mexican politicians up the wrong way. Mexico has just pre-paid some of its emergency US loans, and has also borrowed - in yen - on the international capital markets again.

According to Mr Summers: "With Mexico, we're out of intensive care and in the recovery stage." Although Mexican output has fallen and unemployment risen as a result of the crisis, it would have been worse if the country had not followed the advice to adjust its policies dramatically. As well as cutting the government deficit and rais-

need to stay involved in international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank in the *Wall Street Journal* last week. Addressing those who would cut US funding for such institutions, he wrote: "Economic disengagement from the world could lead, as it did earlier in the century, to a spiral of protectionism and isolation that would be financially catastrophic for our own economy." However, the real economic policy challenge, he says, is not what level to set government spending or interest rates but what to do about the half of the population that is losing ground. How do we equip this half to participate in rising productivity and wages? The focus has to be on investment in human capital," he says. This is pure New Labour.

Mr Summers suggests, too, that the causes of business cycle fluctuations are so little understood that this would be a tempting area for research if he were back in the academic world. "The Keynesian paradigm has been shattered. Nothing satisfactory has been put in its place," he says. Economists need to try to understand speculative financial markets and how policy needs to respond.

"Adam Smith's world was one of widgets and corn, not McDonalds and Microsoft. We don't have ways of thinking about the profound changes in economic life caused by information technology and the development of the service industries."

This research agenda highlights an interest in the big questions in economics - the drive that took him into public policy in the first place. In 1993 he was awarded the American Economics Association's biennial John Bates Clark medal for the outstanding economist under 40. An appreciation of his work published to mark the award identified the essence of his approach as the identification of a key question in economics, and empirical testing of competing theoretical explanations. The citation continued: "His work has inspired a new generation of economists, many of them his students and collaborators, who are now reconstructing the empirical foundations of the discipline."

Mr Summers left academia temporarily in 1981-82, to work on the staff of the President's (then Ronald Reagan) Council of Economic Advisers in Wash-



Paradigms lost: Lawrence Summers says economists need a new way of thinking

Photograph: FT

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW LAWRENCE SUMMERS

ers at the recent meetings of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, Mr Summers argues that there is more popular support for cuts in government budget deficits than anybody expected. The demands of the financial markets for sound fiscal policy do not run counter to the will of the people.

Besides, flush with the success of the G7 accord to turn around the dollar, he believes markets can be monitored and managed. "Those who were sceptical about whether G7 pronouncements meant anything have learnt to respect them, a bit more," he says.

"The benefits of greater flows of capital far outweigh any side-effects, but clearly the system needs to be managed."

The more liquid the capital markets, the less pronounced the side-effects will be. These lessons he applies to Mexico,

ing interest rates, it has begun a programme of deregulation and privatisation.

"This demonstrates the importance of following a market-oriented policy," Mr Summers says. The bolder the adjustment, the better. "It is no less painful to pull a tooth out slowly."

The broad outlines of his economic policy views are orthodox: lower deficits, market liberalisation if necessary, and a credible anti-inflationary interest rate policy. This is the international policy consensus he has helped to reinforce in this year of turbulence in the financial markets.

He has two concerns about the outlook for growth and inflation. One is that complacency will put steady growth and low inflation at risk. The other is that the isolationist spirit will increase, both in the US and elsewhere. Mr Summers wrote a lengthy defence of America's

China cautious as it considers life after Deng

It is commonplace for exotic species to embark on a collective frenzy, normally during mating season. Yet there is an equally exotic species for whom the ritual is less frequent: die-hard China investors sent into a frenzy of activity by the Chinese government's latest Five-Year plan.

The ninth five-year plan, released earlier this month, provoked the usual deluge of comment and analysis from China watchers based in Hong Kong, the main source of foreign capital for the stirring giant north of the border.

What is strange about all this is that China's Five-Year Plans give so little guide to what will happen in the coming half decade. Instead they provide an insight into those aspects of economic development over the next five years that have been endorsed as official policy by the decision-makers in Peking.

At the best of times the Chinese leadership has shown itself to have little idea how to initiate economic reform. Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward, announced in the Second Five-Year plan, led to widespread famine, the crippling of Chinese

VIEW FROM HONG KONG

industry and years of damage to the nation's agricultural sector.

The genius of Deng Xiaoping, the ailing patriarch, was to provide space for market forces to lead the way in initiating reform, allowing the state to adopt those that succeeded and denounce those that did not.

The most profound elements of economic and fiscal reform have not been initiated in the Five-Year Plans. For example, China's open-door policy was only officially endorsed in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, spanning 1986 to 1990. By that time all the major innovations - special economic zones, relaxed controls on foreign investment and export-led economic growth - were already well underway.

Seen in this light, the current Five-Year Plan reflects a more cautious mood among the leadership. Some Hong Kong-based foreign investors were disappointed. They were looking for indications of concrete reforms, such as an opening up of the financial sector and allow-

ing foreign investment in key growth industries such as telecommunications.

Instead, the plan emitted a stream of generalities, most importantly the pledge to give "national treatment" to foreign companies. This presumably means they would be on a level playing field with Chinese companies. In reality, financial incentives and importation rights often leave foreign companies at a distinct advantage. Problems arise when things go wrong, as they did in the case of James Peng, a naturalised Australian, who established one of China's first joint-venture companies and was recently sentenced to 18 years for embezzlement. Foreign investors worry that Chinese partners will be favoured when there is conflict between the partners. The implications of "national treatment" go much further, in allowing foreign joint-venture companies to compete freely in China's domestic market.

But foreign investors are also concerned over the high rate of inflation. Here the plan offers few suggestions, other than curbing new capital investment.



Opening a window: 'National treatment' should allow foreign firms to compete freely in China's domestic market

Last Friday the State Statistical Bureau announced that year-on-year inflation was down to just over 11 per cent. This figure will be read with interest in the faster-growing coastal regions, where the real level of in-

flation may be as high as 20 per cent.

There are signs that inflation is being tackled, although the main weapon chosen is the credit squeeze, which is being more or less faithfully admin-

istered by the state-controlled banks. This is bad news for the corporations listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange, which have blamed the squeeze for recent poor interim results.

While credit is getting tighter, the policymakers in Peking have given the official nod of approval for the retrogressive step of not allowing state companies to go bankrupt.

The idea had been to make them more competitive by insisting that they rely on their own resources. This produced walls of anguish from around the country, where competition was creating real hardship. So this plan endorses a policy that has been evident over the past year, effectively allowing the state to bail out ailing state corporations.

By any standard, the Ninth Five-Year Plan is unimaginative, mirroring the caution that grips the Chinese leadership as it contemplates life without Deng. But as history has shown, this does not mean significant changes will not take place in the next five years - some of which the Tenth Five-Year Plan may well endorse.

Stephen Vines

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section two

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INDEPENDENT
section two

Bates Bates steps into the spotlight

The successes were limited to Nick Pinkney, who scored two good tries, Daryl Powell, who engineered most of England's points, and Phil Clarke, who led the side energetically in the absence of Shaun Edwards.

ously related as a Continent.

NEW ZEALAND: Cook (Leeds); Bentley (Herald), Pinkney (Herald), Mathew (Herald), Offish (Herald), Hargrave (Herald), Hargrave (Herald), Hargrave (Herald), Cassidy (Wigan), Platt (Auckland Wanderers), Hargrave (Herald), Joynt (St Helens), Glarie (Sydney City Roosters, capt.).

Substitutes: Radcliff (Wigan) for Bentley, 22; Broadbent (St Helens) for Hargrave, 40; Sampson (Castletown) for Platt, 40; Smith (Castletown) for Joynt, 40.

SOUTH AFRICA: Van Wyk (Enslin Road); Krombe (Durban), Fouta (Durban), Boshoff (Durban), Ballot (Pretoria), Pienzy (Johnson Wanderers), Allena (Berea); Watts, Van Deventer (both Durban), Booyens (Durban); Dreyer, Alberts (Pretoria), Williams, Madgey (both Durban). Substitutes: Cloete (Berea) for Pienzy, 17; Van der Westhuizen (Berea) for Madgey, 35; Williams for Booyens, 48; Cloete (Durban) for Alberts, 62.

Reference: D. Morgan (Australia).



Australia	66
Fiji	0

Johns, playing in the unfamiliar role of hooker, had a strong all-round game, kicking nine goals from 12 attempts. If he is to hold his place there is a prospect of both sides going

Murray predicted, however, that the set-back of their two heavy defeats will not derail

■ Maurice Lindsay, the World Cup tournament director, has revealed plans for an annual competition, to be called the Oceana Cup, for the southern hemisphere nations.


On the other, countries like the United States and Russia, where Rugby league is a small part of the sporting fabric of a vast nation. Part of the appeal is that, when the Cooks take on the States at Post Office Road tonight, they will be favourites to win. Unlike the World Cup proper, which gained credibility by

That is indicative in the depth of pride involved in representing the game's minnows. Ireland, for instance, were overwhelmed by the number of British professionals wanting to use family links to qualify for them.

MOLDOVA A new nation, whose other claim to fame is beating Wales at football. Have the advantage of being largely composed of full-time professionals from the well-established Russian club.

USA. Probably the most basic side in the competition, but they have the assets of a former Sydney first-grader in scrum-half, David Niku, and plenty of stepping individuals to run off him.

To be in with a chance of winning our prize you must collect six differently numbered tokens from the 14 we are printing in the *Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*. At least one token must come from the *Independent on Sunday*. Today we are printing **Token 2** and we will print an entry form at the end of the competition.



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عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ أَبِي بَكْرٍ

RACING: Spectrum launches a Group One double for Peter Chapple-Hyam but a 1996 prospect fails in Paris

Honour again for Manton

RICHARD EDMONDSON

It was a mixed weekend for Peter Chapple-Hyam and one of the many affluent owners that support his Manton stable, Lord Weinstock.

Both trainer and owner had a Saturday to remember when Spectrum, almost ignored despite his persuasive form, won the Champion Stakes at Newmarket.

Like many owners, Lord Weinstock has shown a lot of money down the grid in his pursuit of success in the sport but few have questioned his financial acumen until recently.

Now the leading figure at GEC is being questioned about his fiscal nous as he reaches a relatively senior shelf of business life. He might reply that his racing decisions seem to be reaching a new level of wisdom.

Chapple-Hyam was having a quiet season by his standards until Spectrum added to his Irish 2,000 Guineas success to make his cheserfield seem a lot more comfortable.

Unlike Lammtarra's abbreviated career, Spectrum will return next season in an effort to prove he is at least as capable at a mile and a half as he has been at 10 furlongs, but he will not be risked on Epsom's undulating terrain where he pulled a muscle while finishing 13th in the Derby.

"He seems to have lost 14 kilos in the race which is more than I expected, but he has got a long time to get over it," Chapple-Hyam said. "He will be put

away now and we will decide what his targets are when next year comes. He will step up to a mile and a half but he will definitely not run in the Coronation Cup.

"Some haven't believed what I said about Spectrum and people might start making excuses for the others, but I was confident yesterday," he added. "Babri has never beaten him and I'm sure he'll beat him when he beats him."

"It was a marvellous day. I always believed he was special and he proved it. This is a serious racehorse."

The glasses must have been chinking together after Chapple-Hyam collected a second, and even more valuable, Group One prize at San Siro, Milan, yesterday when Court Of Honour won the Gran Premio del Jockey Club Italiano in the colours of Chapple-Hyam's landlord at Manton, Robert Sangster.

At Longchamp, though, there was disappointment for

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Academy Of Dance (Folkestone 1.15)
NB: Mushahid (Pontefract 3.00)

Chapple-Hyam and Sangster when Astor Place, regarded as one of their brightest prospects for next year's Classics, could finish only fifth behind the André Fabre-trained Loup Solitaire in what is arguably France's top event for two-year-olds, the Grand Critérium.



Spectrum (light colours) strides home from Riyadhian (left) and Montjoy (right) in Saturday's Champion Stakes

Photograph: Ed Byrne

Loup Solitaire, the only maiden in a seven-runner field, scraped home by a short-head in front of Manton's stable companion and the warm favourite. With only about three and a half lengths separating the whole field there was nothing to suggest that any of the contenders would be able to lay a glove on Alharth in next year's 2,000 Guineas after his rather more emphatic success in Friday's Dewhurst Stakes.

Fabre enjoyed one of those afternoons when he might have written the results himself as he collected all three Group races. The most stinging result for the British came when Poplar Bluff, owned like Loup Solitaire by Daniel Wildenstein, defeated a field of 10 that included six chal-

lengers from this side of the Channel, in the Prix de la Forêt. Bin Ajwad fared best of the British as Pat Eddery conjured a terrific run that looked as though it would take Ben Hanbury's colt to victory, but Poplar Bluff stuck his neck out again in the shadow of the post to secure the £60,000 prize.

Alec Wildenstein, the owner's son, patting Fabre firmly on the back, announced ambitious plans for the winner. "We must be thinking about the Breeder's Cup Mile or perhaps even the sprint for this improving colt."

Simon Dow, the trainer of the favourite, Young Ern, had said beforehand: "I am bringing a bag to take home the money." He looked rather flat after Young Ern trailed in last.

Cees teed-up for Festival

Top Cees, the favourite for Saturday's Cesarewitch who stayed on dourly for third place, has another valuable handicap on his agenda, the Coral Cup at the Cheltenham Festival next March.

The five-year-old, beaten a length and a neck behind the Mary Reveley-trained Old Red in the Newmarket marathon, will have a couple of runs over timber before Cheltenham.

"I was very pleased with his run," Mrs Ramsden said. "It's a shame he didn't win, but he's been gelded in the summer and he ran well. A bit more cut in the ground might have helped.

He's an out-and-out stayer, and by stayers' standards he is still a young, fresh horse."

"He'll have a light campaign over hurdles and when he comes back he'll have a similar campaign to this year on the Flat, with the Chester Cup his first target."

A horse with a more immediate race in sight is Beauchamp King, who is the only horse who has not won the Cesarewitch since 1961, but he is still a young, fresh horse.

John Dunlop added the colt, who has won his last three starts, to next Saturday's Group One mile contest at a cost of

£15,000. Beauchamp King is likely to meet the Royal Lodge Stakes winner, Mons, and the Prix de la Salamandre victor, Lord Of Men, at Doncaster.

Lake Coniston has come through his pre-Breeders' Cup Sprint test at Lingfield with flying colours. Ridden by Pat Eddery, he handled the turn into the home straight in a five-furlong spin designed to prepare him for a similar bend at Belmont Park. "He moved like a dream," Eddery said of the July Cup winner's first taste of sand. "We were winging. He took a strong hold but handled the bend with ease."

FOLKESTONE

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GOING: Good.

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HYPERION

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LEVY BOARD RATING RELATED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,650 added 2Yf 6f

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2.00 MISSILE (nap)

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ROBERT L. MURPHY (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY).

sport

FOOTBALL: Ball finds solace in his side's performance as Scholes' early strike gives United their fifth consecutive derby victory

City left behind by history

The dilemma of a Mancunian parent. "I just do not know what to," said one father - a lapsed Blue. "I cannot get tickets for United, but if I take him to City he'll be cursed with supporting them for life."

In the event he went to Maine Road and saw City score four, a collector's item indeed, even if it was only against Wycombe Wanderers. But his lad is not convinced, because "all his mates at school support United".

The proudest boast of City fans - almost their only one these days - is that Mancunians follow City, while United fans are long-distance glory-hunters. Now it appears even that consolation is in danger.

And no wonder. United's 1-0 victory at Old Trafford on Saturday was their fifth derby win in succession. City have now conceded 13 goals since they last beat Peter Schmeichel and have defeated United only once in the last 21 matches. A generation has grown up since City last won at Old Trafford, 21 years ago, when Denis Law's backheel relegated their hosts. Five of Saturday's team have been born since then, four locals and the Londoner, David Beckham.

Unfortunately it was one of those days when youth was inhibited rather than exuberant. Even though the lack of away support had diluted the derby atmosphere, United's cluster of local-born strikers were still infected by the inherent tension of these matches.

City first lost possession within five seconds and when they went behind, to Paul Scholes' fourth-minute header, a nearby voice muttered, "Fetch the abacus". A good book would have been more useful, or a pillow. With United not performing to their usual high standards, and City having to produce one of their best recent performances simply to rise above the mediocrity, the match was one of the poorest derbies in years.

Alex Ferguson had noted in the match programme that United often find it difficult to kill teams off but promised there would be "no letting anyone off the hook today". How-



GLENN MOORE
COMMENTARY

ever, he had to return to the theme later. "The young players did not have the experience to know whether to penetrate or keep possession," he said. "There are a lot of local players who know the importance of these matches, who are just happy to win."

Such a result never seemed in doubt. There remained a significant gap between the sides, if not the gulf that had been anticipated. But the narrow scoreline did lead to growing unease in the all-Red stadium, and Niall Quinn could have levelled twice. He was presented with a clear chance by Gary Pallister's poor control after half an hour but shot wide. He finished just as ineptly 17 minutes later, when the hard-working Gary Flitcroft put him through. This time a weak tap to Peter Schmeichel was all the Irishman could muster.

That was it for City. Although Flitcroft's endeavour and Georgi Kinkladze's thoughtfulness earned plenty of possession, there was no cutting edge. At the back, until they chased the game late on, they were tighter than of late. But they still conceded a bad goal - Richard Edgill's ill-judged attempt to clear Ryan Giggs' corner left Scholes so alone the 51st 7in striker was actually able to stoop to head in off Keith Cole's chest.

For a long time after that United failed to create any real chances and one began to wonder if the improvement in Andy Cole's all-round game had been at the expense of his goalscoring. He has scored once in eight games this season, a drought serious enough to warrant a double-page spread in Saturday evening's football pink.



Ryan Giggs links away from Manchester City's Steve Lomas during Saturday's derby match at Old Trafford

Photograph: Mark Thompson/Allsport

As that spread is printed before the day's football, so's law would usually dictate that Cole struck a hat-trick. It was certainly a risk to take with City the visitors but, when City left gaps and Cole finally began to find chances, he missed them all. Six good opportunities were wasted in the last half-hour, only one demanding a save from Eike Immel.

His poor first touch, and his propensity to run offside as United delay the forward ball, fuel the belief that Newcastle

got the better of January's £7m deal - especially as the make-weight, Keith Gillespie, has scored three goals in five games. However, Cole does appear to be having an impact on the team, if not the scoresheet. In his eight matches, United have scored 18 times; in the five he has missed they have managed just four goals.

That is still more than City have managed in the league all season and their plight is growing desperate. In the short-term they have lost eight league

games in succession. Long-term it is 19 years since they won a trophy, 16 since they even qualified for Europe. That may be remedied next season, but only through the Anglo-Italian Cup. Alan Ball, having admitted the result was fair, took comfort from his team's spirit. But it was small solace. "Even though they were poor we did not have enough to take anything from it," he admitted. One player was even more upset than him, Peter Beagrie, who expressed disgust in Ball's direction when

substituted. Ball sold Beagrie when he was manager at Stoke.

Ball still retains a surprising degree of support among City fans, many of whom appear to accept their fate as the consequence of years of poor administration. United, meanwhile, seem to attract fans with terribly short memories. When Scholes, who had suffered from bronchitis during the week, was withdrawn, the crowd booed the decision. One spectator then turned to the press box and said of Ferguson: "This bloke is the

Sinclair gets the drop on duellists

CLIVE WHITE

Queen's Park Rangers
Newcastle United

2
3

The return to Loftus Road of Les Ferdinand clearly inspired him to give of his best and lend weight to the view that he might be the next multi-million pound departure from Queen's Park Rangers. As for the promising two-goal Daniele Dicochio, he still has a way to go.

Trevor Sinclair was the player who captured the imagination on Saturday, upstaging the duelling No 9s of both teams in a rollicking good match. Displaying as many twists and turns as the game itself, he led the Newcastle boys John Beresford in particular, a merry dance. If only he could discover the necessary composure at the end of those slalom runs to deliver the final shot or cross with greater consistency...

"He's easy on the eye, isn't he?" his manager, Ray Wilkins, said. "You see him flying across the surface and you think, 'Christ, what a player' - and then he gives the ball away."

Wilkins was entitled to feel a trifle cynical after his team, who have a penchant for committing hara-kiri in their own front room (four home defeats in five), plunged the blade in yet again, courtesy of Karl Raddy's aberrational back-pass. Keith Gillespie was on hand for the second time in the match to take decisive advantage and give lie to the view that, without the finishing of Ferdinand, the League leaders would not be sitting so pretty.

As it was, of course, the England striker, controversially left out in the cold in Oslo in midweek but warmly welcomed back here, again hit the target, for the 12th time in 11 matches. But such was the attention paid him by his old mucker, Danny Maddix, that he had not been given the opportunity to beat Maddix for pace in the 55th minute, he would almost certainly have left his old hunting ground a frustrated figure. "Are you watching, Terry Venables?" crowed the Magpies. If the England coach had been, his obvious misgivings about the player might have been confirmed by the way Ferdinand struggled against man-marking.

Even so, there is still plenty about his game that would give foreign defenders, as well as domestic ones, cause for concern. It was not just through modesty that young Dicochio asked beforehand that he not be compared with his Rangers predecessor. "Les is the finished article," he said a little generously. However, when it comes to aerial ability, the 6ft 4in Dicochio - who is of Italian extraction - sizes up pretty impressively, because with a whisker of a hat-trick of headers.

Asked by an Italian voice what would be the position of new signing Mark Hateley when he is fit in the light of Dicochio's seven goals in six games, Wilkins replied with deadpan face: "He won't get a game." Goals: Dicochio (45) 1-0; Gillespie (45) 1-1; Ferdinand (55) 1-2; Dicochio (77) 2-2; Gillespie (71) 2-3. Queens Park Rangers (4-4-2): Sommer; Ince; Read; Moller; Brewster; Holloway; O'Brien; (Goalkeeping, 73) Barker; Vase; Dicochio. Substitutes not used: Williams, Gellan. Newcastle United (4-4-2): Innes; Egan; Curle; Symons; Priest; Lomas; Flitcroft; Raddy; Beagrie; (Goalkeeping, 58) Quinn (Crewe, 79), Rennie. Referee: R. Dimes (Mossley).

Little problem arising with Milosevic

PHIL SHAW

Aston Villa
Chelsea

0
1

The body language of the rival benches spoke volumes for two sides who, barring the advent of a Les Tisser or a Shearer, are likely to be thereabouts rather than there next spring.

In the Villa pen stood Brian Little and a row of coaching lieutenants and substitutes, straining like caged animals against the wall which is as close to the pitch as they are allowed. Shouting and gesticulating, mentally kicking every ball, the management could not disguise their agitation with a team who had started the afternoon in second place.

A few feet away, Glenn Hoddle and his Chelsea entourage formed an altogether different line. Long before a late and well worked goal by Dennis Weir brought them to their feet, they reclined on their communal pew in such a relaxed way that they might have been sitting on a sofa quaffing wine and settling down to watch *Match of the Day*.

The difference reflected the disparity in experience between the teams. Villa, with Andy Townsend suspended and Mark Draper tangled up in blue by Eddie Newton, lacked leadership and presence. For Chelsea, Ruud Gullit and Mark Hughes simply oozed authority, inspiring younger colleagues and obviating the need for touchline exhortations or tactical tinkering.

"I thought they bossed the game in the key areas," Little admitted. "They defended well, broke out and scored, and kept their shape well. It was a classic away performance."

After four wins in five Premiership matches, Chelsea appear to be sitting comfortably rather than the sitting targets of August. Since there was a Coca-Cola Cup defeat by Stoke tucked away during the present run, Hoddle's assertion that they are at last achieving consistency may be premature. However, the £2.3m capture of Day Ruggens is a sign that a relaxed posture should not be mistaken for resting on laurels at Stamford Bridge.

"The more quality players you bring in, the more you're likely to stamp out inconsis-

tency," Hoddle said. "We left six players at the training ground who could have figured in this game, which bodes well for the future of the club."

Hoddle singled out Newton, who has not been a regular of late, as Chelsea's best player. Maybe the words "apart from Gullit" went unsaid because the Dutchman's superiority was so obvious. Or perhaps the mere mortals in the side are considered more in need of praise.

Once, bizarrely, Gullit apologised profusely for a rare over-lit pass to, of all people, Paul Furlong, a journeyman striker who is struggling to justify his £2.3m price tag. The question of buying a suitable partner for Hughes - assuming that the Welshman sticks it out in the south - is one which Hoddle

may have to address if Chelsea are to make a sustained impact. Furlong's shortcomings were mirrored in the Villa attack by Savo Milosevic, who is in danger of assuming Tony Cascari's old mantle. Little is insistent that his £3.5m Serb must have time to adjust, but a tough autumn schedule which includes Arsenal away on Saturday means that decision time is approaching. Can he afford to wait for Milosevic to come good? And if the answer is no, can Villa afford another record fee to replace him?

This week Scotland's three European representatives face difficult matches with Rangers (4-0 winners at Park) travelling to Turin for a Champions' League match against Juventus. Paul Sturrock, the St Johnstone manager, was able to go home yesterday after spending the night in a Dundee coronary care unit, writes David McInnes. Sturrock was rushed to hospital on Saturday after collapsing with chest pains as he watched his side lose 2-1 to his former team, Dundee United. Doctors were able to tell him he had not suffered a heart attack.

Baggio dismissive of Rangers' chances

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Paul Sturrock, the St Johnstone manager, was able to go home yesterday after spending the night in a Dundee coronary care unit, writes David McInnes.

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This week Scotland's three European representatives face difficult matches with Rangers (4-0 winners at Park) travelling to Turin for a Champions' League match against Juventus.

"Rangers are missing certain elements and that should make it easy for Juve," the former Juventus player, Roberto Baggio, has said.

Those missing elements include Paul Gascoigne, Alan McLaren, Ian Ferguson and Brian Laudrup, while Oleg Salenko is struggling to overcome a thigh injury.

Celtic again demonstrated a lack of cutting edge in their 2-2 draw with Hibernian, prior to Thursday's Cup-Winners' Cup tie against Paris St-Germain. While the minds of Raith had evidently drifted towards tomorrow's UEFA Cup visit of Bayern Munich, Jürgen Klinsmann et al as they fell to a 4-2 defeat at the hands of Hearts.

In-flight entertainment takes the biscuit for Fry

Birmingham City's captain, Liam Dailly, fired two weeks' wages after refusing to accept his relegation to the substitute's bench at Portsmouth, is, in fact, lucky that he missed the game that cost him his place.

Centre-back Dailly, who was on duty with the Republic of Ireland last week, found himself left out by Birmingham's manager, Barry Fry, in favour of Michael Johnson and Andy Edwards, who were impressive as City won 1-0 at Perugia in the Anglo-Italian Cup.

But the chosen pair earned their reward at a price - City's excursion into Europe included two and a half hours on the runway at Birmingham waiting to take off, a three-hour coach journey from Rome airport to Perugia and

four hours to get back after a pile-up blocked the autobahn in front of them.

What is more, some of the players had skipped breakfast on the outward flight, expecting to be fed on the plane. They were... with two biscuits each.

"Two biscuits!" Fry said. "Two bloody biscuits! I thought we were on *Candid Camera*."

"We were so hungry we had to force the driver to stop at the services on the way to Perugia. We arrived at our hotel there with just enough time to go to the toilet and check out."

"When we got back to Birmingham the fans who had been on our plane said they'd had a great time. I realised later why - they had had so much extra time at the bar that they were sozzled."

Turn back the clock

Alan Ball may think his first target is to get Manchester City out of the bottom three but there is another one he might like to consider - to avoid becoming the fastest manager through Maine Road's infamous revolving door. City have had 14 managers

since 1971 with an average job-span of 20 months - although several survived less than half that. Johnny Hart, who took over from Malcolm Allison in 1973, was gone in six months; Ron Saunders, who followed him, a mere five - but even they lasted longer than John Benson, appointed in February, 1983 and on his way, after four months, by June. Ball was hired in July.

That was the weekend that was

by Jon Colley

So that's where they are

How's this for a star-studded Premiership line-up: Woods; Warhurst, Tiler, Scales; Clough; Dumitrescu, Serfaty, Johnson; Dozzell; Harrison, Kennedy.

My fantasy league team? Well, er... no, actually. But they ought to be someone's, especially considering each has been traded in the real football world for an average fee of almost £2.23m, ranging from Chris Woods at £1.2m to John Scales at £3.5m. The whole lot would have set you back £24.5m. Unfortunately, they would not have picked up many points for anyone this weekend. None actually made his club's starting line-up, even though eight of them were reckoned to be worth £2m or more when bought and sold in the last two years. Which could mean one of two things: either there are too many fine players chasing too few places, or too many managers who cannot tell a thoroughbred from a lemon.

Red card

Edinburgh

...for the football public of Edinburgh, who have been apparently unmoved by the success of Livingston (formerly Meadowbank Thistle), in winning seven of their first nine games in the Scottish Third Division. Only 272 turned up for Saturday's top-of-the-table clash with Brechin City. Livingston's move to their new home cannot come too soon...

PREMIER XI

FLANK	GOALKEEPER	DEFENCE	MIDFIELD	FORWARD
Woods	Warhurst	Tiler	Scales	Clough
Dumitrescu	Serfaty	Johnson	Dozzell	Harrison
Kennedy				

Idol worship for the idle

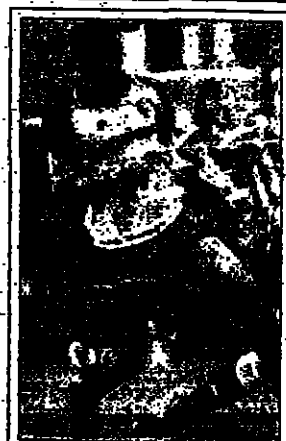
Posters, videos, memorabilia - desperate Cantona addicts have plenty to satisfy their cravings when the Frenchman is not playing. Now they can help themselves to another fix - an hour's worth of homage to Eric on compact disc. For those who really cannot think of a better way to spend £9.99, Cantona: The Album (Exotic Records; cat. no. Pelé 1000) features songs and soundbites brought to you by such artists as Raymond Bzame, Red Deville, The Hair Time Oranges and Ooh-La-La, as well as Captain Sensible, once of the Damned, who presumably feels a certain empathy with his idol.

Tracks include Eric Please Don't Go, Monsieur Garinus and Cantona Superstar (or should it be Superstore?). Serious bits, such as they are, come from George Best, Pat Crandall, Graeme Le Saux and someone called Ferguson.

Take a bow

Kevin Keegan

...the Newcastle United manager, for his typically honest assessment of his team's win at Loftus Road. "I feel very sorry for Ray Wilkins - I consider him a good friend," he said. "They (Queen's Park Rangers) never stopped competing and, in the end, they lucked out of us. We got more than we possibly deserved."



Turn off a strip

The latest in our occasional series on hideous kits features this little number from Watford, which suggests that Eton John could be back in charge of wardrobe at Vicarage Road. The Hornets may be roughing it these days in the First Division, but was it really necessary to give the impression they were rolling around in the dirt with this smudgy bit on the shoulders?

Rumours

Fact and fiction from the Sunday papers

Graham Taylor's time is running out as Wolves manager, according to the People, which reports that the Molineux board cannot wait for banned ex-Arsenal boss George Graham to become available and have switched their attention to former England winger Chris Weddie, reportedly eager to quit Sheffield Wednesday for management. The People echoes the News of the World in predicting a £2.5m move by Kevin Keegan to bring

Jesper Blomqvist from IFK Gothenburg, but is also in forecasting another Blackburn swoop for Southampton's £1.5m-rated winger, Neil Heaney.

The News of the World says Sheffield Wednesday manager David Pleat has been turned down in a £3.5m cash bid to persuade Manchester City to part with Uwe Rösler. The same paper reports that Leeds are preparing a move for the Argentinian captain, Roberto Ayala, currently on loan from Parma to Napoli.

Meanwhile, the Sunday Express claims that Middlesbrough could steal Ian Rush from under the noses of Celtic.

الرياضة من اليمين

FOOTBALL: Bryan Robson's team prepare for new arrival with sixth consecutive win while Leeds wilt under Wright's excellence

Hignett calm under pressure

GUY HODGSON

Sheffield Wednesday 0
Middlesbrough 1

Teesside maybe a region in waiting, but Middlesbrough are doing well enough even before the arrival of Juninho. The Brazilian, who is due today, will find his new club in fourth place in the Premiership and six points behind the leaders, Newcastle.

This is Middlesbrough's sixth successive victory and, ironically, the goal that secured it was scored by the player likely to step down when Juninho's work permit comes through, Craig Hignett. He may be the man whose feet are tapping least to the samba beat but he had sufficient disregard for the pressure on his first-team place to calmly score a penalty, which was just as well as a goal from open play became more remote as the match went on. Even the 68th-minute penalty had an element of controversy about it because, although Lee Briscoe clearly handled the ball, Wednesday believed there had been a push on Peter Atherton by Steve Vickers earlier in the move. There was also the question of intent.

"It was certainly debatable," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said. "To intentionally handle you have to have eyes on the ball and he was looking away. His hand went up to protect him from a challenge from the side. Unless he is very clever I don't think it was a penalty."

It was a frustrating game all round for Wednesday, who deteriorated like the evening light. At first, prompted by Chris Waddle, they stretched the Middlesbrough back five that is as pliable as stone. Later they bounced off this rearward Waddle, a tired and slightly forlorn figure on the right wing at the end, epitomised their whole day.

It was Waddle who was a

dominant figure of the first half. In the 13th minute his wonderfully weighted pass split Middlesbrough's defence and almost allowed Mark Bright a shot at goal. Five minutes before the interval he delivered a cross from the right which floated into Boro's six-yard box and Bright should have done better with his header.

In between Mark Pembroke had Gary Walsh diving to his right with a 30-yard free-kick while at the other end Neil Cox deceived Briscoe with a flick of his heel and then was denied only by Kevin Pressman's save.

Middlesbrough had been muted before the interval but a knee injury to Jan Åge Fjørtoft worked in their favour because the substitute, John Hendrie, was better suited to the quick raids launched by Nick Barnes and Hignett.

After the goal - the first this season not to be either scored or made by Barnes - Middlesbrough could use Wednesday's urgency for an equaliser. Hendrie had two chances but the closest they came to adding to their lead came after 71 minutes when Cox headed against the bar.

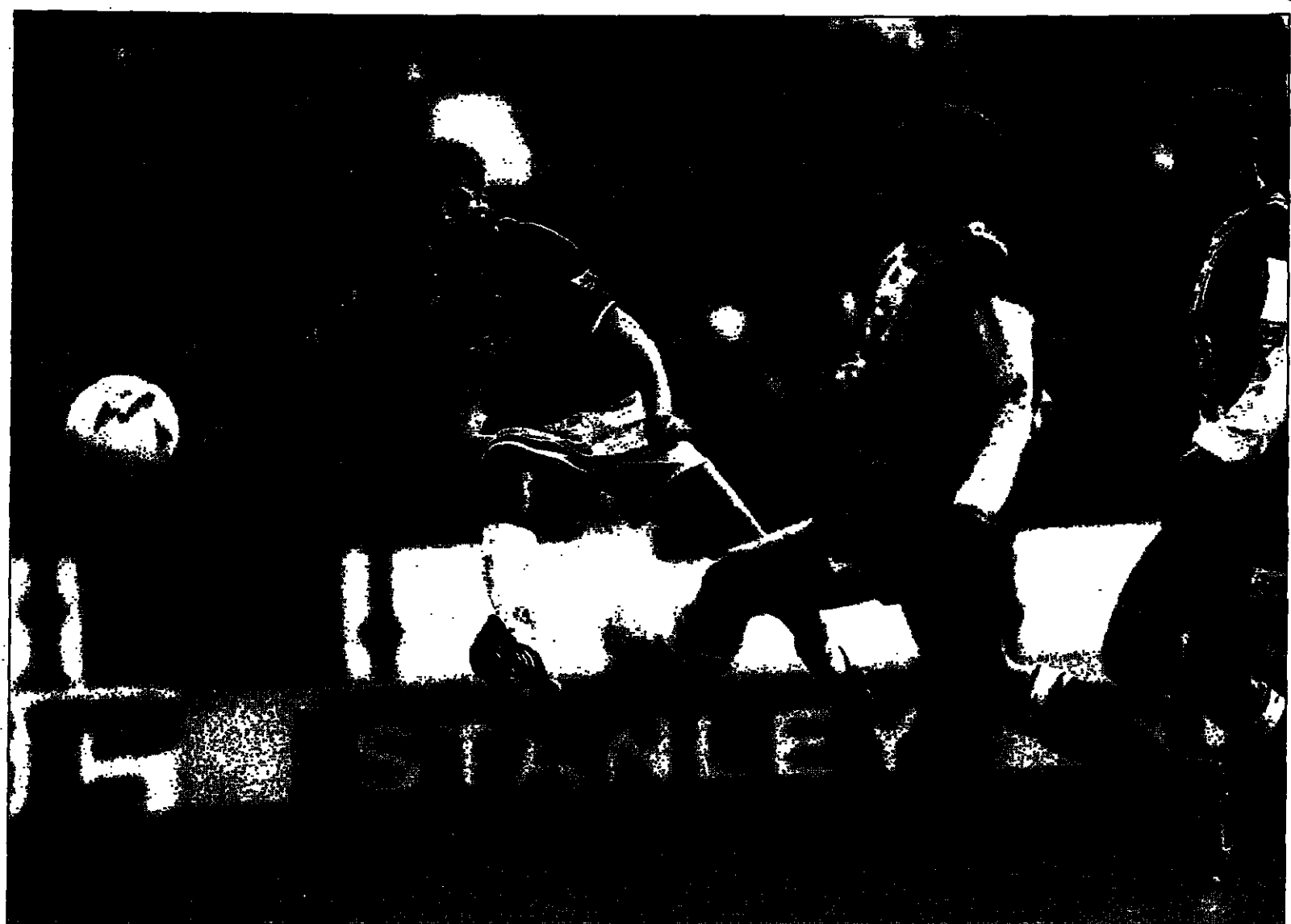
Andy Sinton, in his first league start of the season, made frequent inroads on the left but the final ball was not good enough and the only real worry for Middlesbrough was when the former England winger went down in the area under a challenge from Cox. Television evidence suggested the referee's decision to play on was the right one.

"We had enough possession," Pleat said, "to manoeuvre a scoring chance, but we didn't." It is becoming a familiar story for Wednesday.

Sheffield Wednesday (4-1-3-2): Pleat; Nathan, Atkinson, Walters, Briscoe, Waddingham; Keogh, Hyde, Briscoe, T. Smith, Sinton; Daynes (Waddingham, 69), Substitutes not used: Ingleton.

Sheffield Wednesday (5-3-2): Walsh, Cox, Pearson, Wilson, White, Hignett, Hendrie, Roberts; Fjørtoft (Hendrie, 30), Barnes, Substitutes not used: Moore, Lidke.

Referee: G. Bailey (Leeds).



Off the ground: Middlesbrough's Neil Cox gets in a shot against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

Arsenal demonstrate their new image

GUY HODGSON

Leeds United 0
Arsenal 3

It is never easy to watch the tenets of life being overturned. Facts are exposed as falsehoods, beliefs dismissed as superstition, pillars of faith are uprooted and demolished. So spare a moment for the bewildered Arsenal supporter.

Gunnerism was simple. For years the creed was to enjoy your team being hated. Absorb pressure and then strike, the latter the goal the better. In a perverse way Leeds' 1-0 win before them, the home team, admittedly without the injured Gary McAllister, looked one

dimensional and laboured. Even Tony Yeboah was anonymous apart from a half chance in the 13th minute that he looped over.

Leeds had one muzzled potential match-winner while Arsenal had three unbridled forces of inspiration in Ian Wright, Dennis Bergkamp and Paul Merson, all of whom scored. By the end the scoreline could have read 0-5 although, to be fair to Leeds, two late headers from Brian Deane might have made it 2-3, too.

The turning point was Merson's goal in the 44th minute. John Lukic made a hash of clearing a back pass and from 35 yards Merson beat his former colleague with a low shot that underlined his speed of thought.

Bergkamp was equally nimble in mind and limb to flick in Steve Bould's header 10 minutes after half-time but the pick was Wright's, a chip of such delicate precision Ernie Els would have been delighted to have executed with his sand wedge at Wentworth yesterday.

"It was executed brilliantly," Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, said, "an absolute gem. He's a player who can make something out of nothing. Terry Venables has his own opinions about players but if he had Ian in his England squad, even on the bench, he would have someone who can do the unexpected. Maybe pull off a result for him."

Rioch was extolling Wright's individualism yet it was his partnership with Bergkamp that

excites him. "They have struck up a tremendous rapport," he said. "In training, during the week, they spend time together. One Wright is louder than the other but they're hit it off."

Just as Rioch's team appear to be hitting it off with the neutral, there were still chants of "Boring, boring Arsenal" on Saturday, only this was coming from their own fans. But, then, they are having to make huge adjustments.

Goals: Merson (45) 0-1; Bergkamp (55) 0-2; Wright (85) 0-3.
Leeds United (5-3-2): Lukic, Kelly, Cousins, Steele, Stone, 180 0-1.
Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Duan, Adams, Bould, Winstanley, Merson, Nielsen, Peck, Hester; Wright, Bergkamp, Substitutes not used: Hargrove, Barton, Burrows (60).
Referee: P. Jones (Leeds).

Le Tissier losing his allure

JON CULLEY

Blackburn Rovers 2
Southampton 1

For once, words were unnecessary. Matthew Le Tissier, the man who wants to stay where he is, did not need to spell it out. His performance spoke for him; and the message to potential suitors was clear: do not waste your money.

It was hardly intentional, of course, but, had Southampton's gifted captain set out deliberately to dampen Jack Walker's enthusiasm, he could not have been more effective. If the gossip is to be believed, Walker would happily spend £10m on bringing Le Tissier to Ewood Park but on this showing he might consider 10 pence too much.

Last season, on the same ground, Le Tissier scored a goal to rival any of those in Tony Yeboah's current repertoire,

raising the clamour for Terry Venables to build England's future around him to deafening levels. But this Le Tissier was the one who sinks around the periphery of the play, shedding his cloak of anonymity only once in a while. The England coach might ask Blackburn for a video, ready for the next time someone says he is a fool to leave him out.

The man of this match, ironically, was a Norwegian, one of those whom England, without Le Tissier, did not have the craft to beat in Oslo last week. Lars Bohinen could not have cut a more contrasting figure. With a spring in his step and purpose in his stride, Blackburn's new arrival from Nottingham Forest involved himself in everything, offering a clever pass here, a change of direction there, but quite the variety the champions' midfield has often lacked.

Troubled, apparently, neither by the bitterness he left behind in Nottingham over his cut-

price transfer nor by the shadow cast over it by the suspended Rune Hauge, Bohinen even managed a debut goal, heading in Stuart Ripley's 19th-minute cross. Scoring was never his forte at Forest, where 64 League appearances brought only seven goals, but that may change now.

"He told me how he wanted to play, how he likes to get forward," Ray Harford, his new manager, said afterwards. "That suited us because we have needed to get midfield players into the box, to do something to think about other than the front players."

Bohinen saw to it that Billy McKinlay, Blackburn's £1.75m signing from Dundee United, stayed on the bench. Harford had planned to swap one new boy for the other in the second half but dared not take Bohinen off. "I'd have been lynched," he said.

For different reasons, Dave Mearns was inclined to leave Le Tissier undisturbed also.

Spurs caught on the counter

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Tottenham Hotspur 0
Nottingham Forest 1

Gerry Francis, Tottenham's manager, had already resigned himself to having a bad weekend before he spoke to the scorer of Saturday's goal. But when he heard Steve Stone's cheery admission that the speculative job which ended Tottenham's run of six consecutive wins had been meant as a cross, bad turned to worse.

If Stone's effort was an accident, it was a sublime one, completing a movement that stood out like an articulated sentence in a muddle of half-expressed ideas.

As Stone received red and white acclamation from the supporters packed into the corner of the ground directly in front of him, another celebration was occurring at the spot

where the move had originated as Forest's back four clamoured all over the figure of Chris Ball-Williams.

He had disposed Tottenham's £4.2m debutant, Ruel Fox, in the left-back position and from there the ball was transferred swiftly up field via Stuart Pearce, Scot Gemmill and Bryan Roy before ending at the feet of the man who had so unexpectedly brightened England's Norwegian outing in midweek. It was classic counter-attacking from the side which has now gone 22 games without defeat in the Premiership and, although fortune entered into it, Forest had already earned their luck.

After a torpid first half, they raised the tempo to create a succession of chances before Stone intervened decisively. The odds for an extended Uefa Cup run this season are good.

Tottenham still looked less than the sum of their parts, although they were crucially

weakened by the thigh injury which prevented Chris Armstrong from partnering Teddy Sheringham upfront. Fox, who worked neatly but to little effect throughout, clearly needs time to settle. Even when he does, however, he is not capable of exerting a steady influence upon a match. For that, Spurs look to Darren Anderton - whose groin injury is likely to keep him out for at least another month.

"If I could play a team which included Fox, Anderton, Armstrong and Sheringham, it would be very exciting," Francis said.

The prospect brought only the faintest of smiles to his face. It was going to be a long weekend.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Austin, Colclough, Mubarek, Wilson; McManis, Howells, Campbell, (Gomez, 74), Rasmussen; Fox, Sheringham, Substitutes not used: 15; Hargrove, Thornton (60).

Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Crossley, Lyden, Cooper, Christie, Pearce, Stone, Gerrard; Ball-Williams, Wright, Roy, (McGregor, 79), Lee. Substitutes not used: Stone, Helder. Referee: R. Hart (County Durham).

Weah on target to tame Juventus

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

Marco Simone and Liberia's George Weah each struck in the opening stages of yesterday's top-of-the-table match to give the league leaders, Milan, their first victory - by 2-1 - over Juventus in five years at the San Siro. It leaves Milan two points clear of Parma, 1-0 winners over Udinese with a late goal from Alessandro Meili.

Milan, who were without Roberto Baggio, Dejan Savicevic and Demetrio Albertini, were forced to survive a tense finale before a capacity 83,000 crowd after Alessandro Del Piero pulled a goal back in the 81st minute for Juventus.

At the Olympic Stadium, Lazio beat Padova 2-0 to move into third spot on 11 points while Internazionale's new English coach, Roy Hodgson, saw his side draw 1-1 away to Atlanta after conceding a late goal. Later were reduced to 10 men by the 55th minute dismissal of Marco Delvecchio.

The infamous German, Stefan Effenberg, scored a spectacular goal on his old hunting ground to hand the German league leaders, Bayern Munich, their first home defeat of the season on Saturday.

Effenberg, who was sent home from last year's World Cup after making an obscene gesture at the crowd, struck a superb long-range shot in the 20th minute as Borussia Munchengladbach secured a notable 2-1 victory.

An own goal from Bayern's Austrian international, Andreas Herzog, in the 81st minute helped the visitors seal their first triumph in Munich in 30 years. Bayern, who scored a consolation goal in the last minute through the French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, saw their lead in the Bundesliga cut to three points after second-placed Borussia Dortmund, the champions, drew 2-2 at Werder Bremen. After starting the season with seven consecutive wins, Bayern have lost their last two games.

Unfashionable Metz kept up their surprise start to the French League, beating Bordeaux 2-0 to remain unbeaten in 13 games this season. A goal in each half from the midfielder Jocelyn Blanchard kept Metz three points clear of Lens.

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid beat Deportivo La Coruna 1-0 to stay two points clear of Barcelona, who beat Athletic Bilbao 4-1, at the head of the Spanish league. After eight matches both teams are still unbeaten.

TODAY'S NUMBER

33

The goal difference enjoyed by Ajax after nine games of the Dutch football season, following their 3-0 victory over Twente Enschede yesterday. The European Cup holders have now scored 33 goals and conceded none.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS

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